

From: Rep.Kurtz
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:03 PM
To: *Legislative All Assembly; *Legislative All Senate
Subject: CO-SPONSORSHIP of LRB-4287/1
Attachments: 19-4287_1.pdf

Importance: High



SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON
Suicide Prevention

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
TO: Legislative Colleagues
FROM: Representative Tony Kurtz
RE: **Co-sponsorship of LRB-4287/1, relating to:** requiring continuing education on suicide prevention for physicians, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and substance abuse counselors and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM

This bill provides a simple addition to the current requirements for maintaining a professional license in professions which may typically be involved in risk assessments for suicide, among other mental health professionals. The professions affected by this legislation include substance abuse counselors, clinical substance abuse counselors, prevention specialists, physicians, psychologists, social workers, advanced practice social workers, independent social workers, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors. Many of the continuing education requirements currently in place for these professions have requirements that a certain number of credits must be in the area of ethics or other topics.

This bill adds a requirement that two hours of those required continuing education credits would have to be on the topic of suicide prevention. Requiring these courses will greatly improve the dissemination of information surrounding suicide prevention best practices among professions that are likely to have contact with those who are most vulnerable to suicidal tendencies. If these professionals receive this education, they may be able to save lives.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please respond to this e-mail or contact Kathryn in Representative Kurtz's office at 6-8531 by **Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM**

If you or someone you know is struggling, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255 or text "HOPELINE" to 741741.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires two hours of continuing education on suicide prevention to be completed every two years for each of the following types of practitioners to renew their credentials: 1) physicians; 2) psychologists; 3) private practice school psychologists; 4) social workers; 5) advanced practice social workers; 6) independent social workers; 7) clinical social workers; 8) marriage and family therapists; 9) professional counselors; 10) substance abuse counselors; 11) clinical substance abuse counselors; and 12) prevention specialists. Under current law, each of those types of professionals must complete at least 30 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their credentials, except that psychologists and private practice school psychologists are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their licenses.

You can also find the interim report, in its entirety, [here](#).



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4287/1

KP:kjf

2019 BILL

1 **AN ACT to consolidate, renumber and amend** 440.88 (9) (intro.) and (b); **to**
2 **amend** 440.88 (9) (a), 448.13 (1) (a) 1., 455.065 (1) and 457.22 (1) (intro.); and
3 **to create** 457.22 (3) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring continuing
4 education on suicide prevention for physicians, psychologists, social workers,
5 marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and substance abuse
6 counselors and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires two hours of continuing education on suicide prevention to be completed every two years for each of the following types of practitioners to renew their credentials: 1) physicians; 2) psychologists; 3) private practice school psychologists; 4) social workers; 5) advanced practice social workers; 6) independent social workers; 7) clinical social workers; 8) marriage and family therapists; 9) professional counselors; 10) substance abuse counselors; 11) clinical substance abuse counselors; and 12) prevention specialists. Under current law, each of those types of professionals must complete at least 30 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their credentials, except that psychologists and private practice school psychologists are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their licenses.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 440.88 (9) (intro.) and (b) of the statutes are consolidated,
2 renumbered 440.88 (9) (bm) and amended to read:

3 440.88 (9) (bm) The department may do all of the following: ~~(b) Require~~ require
4 continuing education as part of any disciplinary process for an individual.

5 **SECTION 2.** 440.88 (9) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 440.88 (9) (a) ~~Establish~~ The department shall establish the minimum number
7 of hours of continuing education required for renewal of certification under this
8 section and the topic areas that the continuing education must cover. The rules
9 promulgated under this paragraph shall require each substance abuse counselor,
10 clinical substance abuse counselor, and prevention specialist to complete at least 2
11 hours of continuing education programs or courses on suicide prevention to renew
12 a certification under this section.

13 **SECTION 3.** 448.13 (1) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

14 448.13 (1) (a) 1. Continuing education programs or courses of study approved
15 for at least 30 hours of credit by the board within the 2 calendar years preceding the
16 calendar year for which the registration is effective. The board shall promulgate
17 rules requiring a physician to complete at least 2 credit hours of continuing education
18 programs or courses approved by the board on suicide prevention.

19 **SECTION 4.** 455.065 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 455.065 (1) Promulgate rules establishing the minimum number of hours of
21 continuing education, the topic areas that the continuing education must cover, the

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1 criteria for the approval of continuing education programs and courses required for
2 renewal of a license and the criteria for the approval of the sponsors and cosponsors
3 of those continuing education programs and courses. The rules promulgated under
4 this subsection shall require each person licensed under s. 455.04 (1) or (4) to
5 complete at least 2 hours of continuing education programs or courses on suicide
6 prevention to renew the person's license. The rules promulgated under this
7 subsection may not count continuing education programs or courses on suicide
8 prevention more than continuing education programs or courses on any other topic.

9 **SECTION 5.** 457.22 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 457.22 (1) (intro.) The examining board may shall do any all of the following:

11 **SECTION 6.** 457.22 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

12 457.22 (3) The rules promulgated under sub. (1) shall require social workers,
13 advanced practice social workers, independent social workers, clinical social
14 workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors to complete at
15 least 2 hours of continuing education programs or courses of study on suicide
16 prevention in order to qualify for renewal.

17 (END)