

HB 1419 -- SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

SPONSOR: Haefner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill allows health care professionals to annually complete up to two hours of suicide assessment, referral, treatment, and management training as part of the continuing education requirements for licensure as a health care professional.

Psychologists are required to complete two hours of such training as a condition of initial licensure. The bill also requires behavior analysts, professional counselors, social workers, baccalaureate social workers, and marital and family therapists to complete two hours of suicide assessment, referral, treatment, and management training as a condition of initial licensure and as a condition of license renewal. The training shall count toward any continuing education required for such license.

This bill is the same as SB 490 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that many suicide victims see a physician in the month before their death, but many health care professionals do not have the training necessary to recognize or treat suicidal patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haefner; Department of Mental Health; Kevin Drollinger, Provident, Inc; Jane Smith, Provident, Inc; Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; and Rebecca Pamperl, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention-Greater Mid Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say suicide prevention is of the utmost importance and this bill could even be expanded to require suicide prevention training for primary care providers, schools, and psychiatrists.

Testifying on the bill was Dr. Chuck Hollister, Missouri Psychological Association.