HB 7139

2013 A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to a mental health first aid training 3 program; creating s. 394.909, F.S.; requiring the 4 Department of Children and Families to establish a 5 Mental Health First Aid Training program; providing 6 for a Mental Health First Aid course to be offered by 7 behavioral health managing entities or other community 8 providers; providing course requirements; requiring 9 the department to establish certification requirements for instructors of the course; providing rulemaking 10 authority; providing an effective date. 11 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 15 Section 1. Section 394.909, Florida Statutes, is created 16 to read: 17 394.909 Mental Health First Aid Training program.-(1) 18 The department shall establish a Mental Health First 19 Aid Training program to help the public identify and understand 20 the signs of mental illness and substance use disorders and to 21 provide the public with skills to help a person who is 22 developing or experiencing a mental health or substance use 23 problem. 24 (2) The program shall provide an interactive, 12-hour 25 Mental Health First Aid Training course through contracts with 26 behavioral health managing entities or other appropriate 27 community providers. The contracting entity shall work 28 cooperatively with local school districts to provide first

Page 1 of 2

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FLOF	RIDA	HOUSE	OF RE	PRESEN	ITATIVES
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	HB 7139 2013
29	priority for training to the staff in public schools, as
30	appropriate.
31	(3) The mental health first aid training shall consist of
32	the following:
33	(a) An overview of mental illnesses and substance use
34	disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness.
35	(b) Information on the potential risk factors and warning
36	signs of mental illness or substance use disorders, including
37	depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders, and self-
38	injury, and common treatments for those conditions.
39	(c) An action plan that encompasses the skills, resources,
40	and knowledge to assess the situation; select and implement
41	appropriate interventions; and help an individual with
42	appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care.
43	(4) The department shall establish certification
44	requirements for instructors of the Mental Health First Aid
45	Training course.
46	(5) The department may adopt rules to implement the Mental
47	Health First Aid Training program.
48	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

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