

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the establishment of a mental health first aid training program; requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish a mental health first aid training program; requiring the department to employ a competitive procurement process to select a statewide association to develop, implement, and manage the program; providing course requirements; requiring instructors to be certified; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature; providing for expiration of the program; providing an appropriation; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to submit a report to the Legislature; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Mental health first aid training program.-

(1) The Department of Children and Families shall establish a mental health first aid training program to help the public identify and understand the signs of mental illness and substance use disorders and provide the public with skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing a mental health or substance use problem.

26 (2) The department shall use a competitive procurement
27 process to select a statewide association for mental health or
28 substance abuse awareness or treatment to develop, implement,
29 and manage the program.

30 (3) The training program shall include, but is not limited
31 to:

32 (a) An overview of mental illnesses and substance use
33 disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

34 (b) Information on the potential risk factors and warning
35 signs of mental illness or substance use disorders, including,
36 but not limited to, depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating
37 disorders, and self-injury, and common treatments for those
38 conditions.

39 (c) An action plan that encompasses the skills, resources,
40 and knowledge required to assess the situation, select and
41 implement appropriate interventions, and help an individual with
42 appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care.

43 (4) The contractor shall administer the program in a way
44 that maximizes the availability of mental health first aid
45 training throughout the state, which may include, but is not
46 limited to, contracting with trained instructors or training
47 additional instructors. However, the contractor shall ensure
48 that all instructors in the training program have current
49 certification by a national authority on mental health first aid
50 programs.

51 (5) The contractor shall prioritize training for staff in
52 educational institutions, including all components of the K-20
53 education system as defined in s. 1000.04, Florida Statutes,
54 private schools as defined in s. 1002.42, Florida Statutes, and
55 colleges and universities as defined in s. 1005.02, Florida
56 Statutes. After staff in educational institutions, the
57 contractor shall prioritize training for first responders. The
58 contractor may provide training to additional individuals.

59 (6) The department shall submit a report on the
60 implementation and effectiveness of the mental health first aid
61 training program provided pursuant to this act. The report shall
62 describe the implementation of this program and include, but not
63 be limited to, the number of individuals trained by geographic
64 area, their employment or affiliation, the impact of the
65 training, and recommendations regarding continued implementation
66 of the program. The report shall be submitted to the Governor,
67 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
68 Representatives by February 1, 2017.

69 (7) This section expires June 30, 2017.

70 Section 2. For fiscal year 2014-2015, the sum of \$300,000
71 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the Federal Grants
72 Trust Fund to the Department of Children and Families to
73 implement the provisions of this act.

74 Section 3. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
75 Government Accountability shall conduct a study on mental health
76 training programs in the state that help the public identify and

77 understand the signs of mental illness and substance use
78 disorders and provide the public with skills to help a person
79 who is developing or experiencing a mental health or substance
80 use problem. The study shall identify major providers of such
81 mental health training programs, the cost of such programs to
82 recipients, and the availability of such programs to the general
83 public and specified groups, including employees of educational
84 institutions, which comprise all components of the K-20
85 education system as defined in s. 1000.04, Florida Statutes,
86 private schools as defined in s. 1002.42, Florida Statutes, and
87 colleges and universities as defined in s. 1005.02, Florida
88 Statutes; first responders; and other personnel who are likely
89 to have contact with individuals with mental health and
90 substance use disorders who are in need of assistance. The
91 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
92 shall survey organizations including, but not limited to,
93 managing entities and not-for-profit organizations providing
94 mental health training in conducting its research. All state
95 agencies and contractors receiving state funds shall comply with
96 each request for data and information from the Office of Program
97 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. The study shall
98 include recommendations for enhancing availability of such
99 mental health training programs in the state. The Office of
100 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall
101 report its findings to the President of the Senate and the
102 Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2015.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.