

By Senator Hutson

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to continuing education requirements
3 for health care practitioners; amending s. 456.031,
4 F.S.; providing requirements for instruction of
5 certain health care practitioners concerning
6 identification and reporting of child abuse; requiring
7 completion of domestic violence and child abuse
8 instruction as part of biennial relicensure or
9 recertification; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Section 456.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to
14 read:

15 456.031 Requirement for instruction on domestic violence
16 and child abuse.—

17 (1) (a) The appropriate board shall require each person
18 licensed or certified under chapter 458, chapter 459, part I of
19 chapter 464, chapter 466, chapter 467, chapter 490, or chapter
20 491 to complete a 3-hour ~~2-hour~~ continuing education course,
21 approved by the board, on domestic violence, as defined in s.
22 741.28, and the identification and reporting of child abuse, as
23 defined in s. 827.03, as part of ~~every third~~ biennial
24 relicensure or recertification. The course shall consist of
25 information on the number of patients in that professional's
26 practice who are likely to be victims of domestic violence or
27 child abuse and the number who are likely to be perpetrators of
28 domestic violence or child abuse, screening procedures for
29 determining whether a patient has any history of being either a
30 victim or a perpetrator of domestic violence or child abuse, and
31 instruction on how to provide such patients with information on,
32 or how to refer such patients to, resources in the local

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33 community, such as domestic violence centers and other advocacy
34 groups, that provide legal aid, shelter, victim counseling,
35 batterer counseling, or child protection services.

36 (b) Each such licensee or certificateholder shall submit
37 confirmation of having completed such course, on a form provided
38 by the board, when submitting fees for every third biennial
39 renewal.

40 (c) The board may approve additional equivalent courses
41 that may be used to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a).
42 Each licensing board that requires a licensee to complete an
43 educational course pursuant to this subsection may include the
44 hour required for completion of the course in the total hours of
45 continuing education required by law for such profession unless
46 the continuing education requirements for such profession
47 consist of fewer than 30 hours biennially.

48 (d) Any person holding two or more licenses subject to the
49 provisions of this subsection shall be permitted to show proof
50 of having taken one board-approved course on domestic violence,
51 for purposes of relicensure or recertification for additional
52 licenses.

53 (e) Failure to comply with the requirements of this
54 subsection shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action
55 under each respective practice act and under s. 456.072(1)(k).
56 In addition to discipline by the board, the licensee shall be
57 required to complete such course.

58 (2) Each board may adopt rules to carry out the provisions
59 of this section.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.