

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1403

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H.P. 952

House of Representatives, May 12, 2015

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### **An Act To Require Licensed Mental Health Professionals To Receive Training in Suicide Risk Assessment**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MALABY of Hancock.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: GILBERT of Jay, MAKER of Calais, Senator: KATZ of  
Kennebec.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §7060**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §4, is further amended  
3 by adding after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

4 Beginning January 1, 2018, a person who submits an application for license renewal  
5 shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board successful completion of a minimum of  
6 6 hours of course work every 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk  
7 assessment or the treatment and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of  
8 community resources and cultural factors. Continuing education courses taken pursuant  
9 to this paragraph may be used to satisfy the licensee's required hours of continuing  
10 education.

11 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §13860, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §6, is further  
12 amended to read:

13 **2. Continuing education and supervision.** The board, by rule, may establish  
14 continuing education and supervision requirements. Applicants for license renewal must  
15 show proof of satisfying the continuing education requirements set forth by the board. If  
16 a license lapses due to failure of the licensee to meet continuing education requirements,  
17 the licensee may renew the license upon completion of the required continuing education.  
18 Beginning January 1, 2020, applicants for license renewal shall demonstrate to the  
19 satisfaction of the board a one-time successful completion of a minimum of 12 hours of  
20 course work in family or intimate partner violence, including course work in spousal or  
21 partner abuse that addresses screening, referral and intervention strategies, including  
22 knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, evidence-based risk assessment and  
23 same-gender abuse dynamics, and successful completion of 6 hours of course work every  
24 10 years in suicide prevention, evidence-based suicide risk assessment or the treatment  
25 and management of suicidal persons, including knowledge of community resources and  
26 cultural factors. An applicant may fulfill ~~this requirement~~ these requirements through  
27 course work provided through contact hours, Internet hours or distance learning  
28 programs, as evidenced by certification from an accredited educational institution or  
29 equivalent teaching or practice experience. The board may accept equivalent courses in  
30 evidence-based suicide risk assessment and treatment of suicidal persons, family or  
31 intimate partner violence screening and referral and intervention strategies or equivalent  
32 teaching or practice experience completed prior to January 1, 2020 in satisfaction of ~~this~~  
33 requirement these requirements. Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this  
34 subsection must be applied to the licensee's required hours of continuing education.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill amends the laws governing the licensure renewal requirements for mental  
37 health clinicians, including professional counselors and social workers, to require 6  
38 continuing education hours in suicide risk assessment and treatment of suicidal persons as  
39 a requirement for license renewal.