
HOUSE BILL 1648

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Klippert, Kilduff, Goodman, Lovick, Ryu, and Appleton

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for suicide awareness and prevention
2 programs to create safer homes and reduce suicide among service
3 members, veterans, and their families; amending RCW 28B.20.746,
4 43.70.445, 9.41.310, 43.70.446, and 43.70.447; adding a new section
5 to chapter 9.41 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.64 RCW;
6 adding a new section to chapter 43.60A RCW; adding a new section to
7 chapter 43.70 RCW; and recodifying RCW 28B.20.746.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.41 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 The department of licensing shall distribute to all firearms
12 dealers in the state suicide awareness and prevention materials
13 tailored to firearms owners that are developed by the safer homes,
14 suicide aware task force under RCW 43.70.445. A firearms dealer must
15 post on the premises and make available to firearms purchasers and
16 transferees the suicide awareness and prevention materials
17 distributed by the department of licensing.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.64
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The commission shall distribute to all licensed pharmacies
2 suicide awareness and prevention materials developed by the safer
3 homes, suicide aware task force under RCW 43.70.445. Each licensed
4 pharmacy must make available to pharmacy customers at the point of
5 sale the suicide awareness and prevention materials distributed by
6 the department.

7 (2) The commission shall survey each pharmacist licensed under
8 this chapter on methods to bridge the gap between practice and
9 suicide awareness and prevention training, including identifying
10 barriers that exist in putting the training into practice. The
11 commission may distribute the survey as part of each pharmacist's
12 license renewal. The commission shall compile and analyze the survey
13 data and report the results to the appropriate committees of the
14 legislature by November 15, 2020.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 The department shall develop and implement a statewide plan to
18 reduce suicide among service members, veterans, and their families.
19 In developing and implementing the plan, the department shall:

20 (1) Collaborate with government and nongovernment agencies and
21 organizations to establish promising best practices for suicide
22 awareness and prevention materials, training, and outreach programs
23 targeted to service members, veterans, and their families;

24 (2) Cultivate peer-led organizations serving veterans in
25 transition and recovery;

26 (3) Create and deliver statewide suicide awareness and prevention
27 training programs with content specific to service members, veterans,
28 and their families; and

29 (4) Provide safer homes materials and trainings, and distribute
30 safe firearms storage devices, to the Washington national guard, the
31 Washington state patrol, allied veteran groups, and other
32 organizations serving or employing veterans, following the
33 recommendations of the safer homes, suicide aware task force.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.20.746 and 2016 c 90 s 6 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) The schools of pharmacy at the University of Washington and
37 Washington State University shall convene a work group to jointly
38 develop a curriculum on suicide assessment, treatment, and management

1 for pharmacy students. The curriculum must include material on
2 identifying at-risk patients and limiting access to lethal means.
3 When developing the curriculum, the schools shall consult with
4 experts on suicide assessment, treatment, and management, and with
5 the (~~safe homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware task force created in
6 RCW 43.70.445 on appropriate suicide awareness and prevention
7 messaging. The schools of pharmacy shall submit a progress report to
8 the governor and the relevant committees of the legislature by
9 December 1, 2016.

10 (2) The pharmacy quality assurance commission shall, for purposes
11 of RCW 43.70.442(4)(a), consider a pharmacist who has successfully
12 completed the curriculum developed under subsection (1) of this
13 section prior to licensure as possessing the minimum training and
14 experience necessary to be exempt from the training requirements in
15 RCW 43.70.442.

16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.70.445 and 2017 c 262 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
19 this specific purpose, a (~~suicide-safer homes~~) safer homes, suicide
20 aware task force is established to raise public awareness and
21 increase suicide prevention education among new partners who are in
22 key positions to help reduce suicide. The task force shall be
23 administered and staffed by the University of Washington school of
24 social work. To the extent possible, the task force membership should
25 include representatives from geographically diverse and priority
26 populations, including tribal populations.

27 (b) The (~~suicide-safer homes~~) safer homes, suicide aware task
28 force comprises a suicide prevention and firearms subcommittee and a
29 suicide prevention and health care subcommittee, as follows:

30 (i) The suicide prevention and firearms subcommittee shall
31 consist of the following members and be cochaired by the University
32 of Washington school of social work and a member identified in
33 (b)(i)(A) of this subsection (1):

34 (A) A representative of the national rifle association and a
35 representative of the second amendment foundation;

36 (B) Two representatives of suicide prevention organizations,
37 selected by the cochairs of the subcommittee;

38 (C) Two representatives of the firearms industry, selected by the
39 cochairs of the subcommittee;

1 (D) Two individuals who are suicide attempt survivors or who have
2 experienced suicide loss, selected by the cochairs of the
3 subcommittee;

4 (E) Two representatives of law enforcement agencies, selected by
5 the cochairs of the subcommittee;

6 (F) One representative from the department of health;

7 (G) One representative from the department of veterans affairs,
8 and one other individual representing veterans to be selected by the
9 cochairs of the subcommittee; and

10 (H) No more than two other interested parties, selected by the
11 cochairs of the subcommittee.

12 (ii) The suicide prevention and health care subcommittee shall
13 consist of the following members and be cochaired by the University
14 of Washington school of social work and a member identified in
15 (b)(ii)(A) of this subsection (1):

16 (A) Two representatives of the Washington state pharmacy
17 association;

18 (B) Two representatives of retailers who operate pharmacies,
19 selected by the cochairs of the subcommittee;

20 (C) One faculty member from the University of Washington school
21 of pharmacy and one faculty member from the Washington State
22 University school of pharmacy;

23 (D) One representative of the department of health;

24 (E) One representative of the pharmacy quality assurance
25 commission;

26 (F) Two representatives of the Washington state poison control
27 center;

28 (G) One representative of the department of veterans affairs, and
29 one other individual representing veterans to be selected by the
30 cochairs of the subcommittee;

31 (H) Three members representing health care professionals
32 providing suicide prevention training in the state, selected by the
33 cochairs of the subcommittee; and

34 (I) No more than two other interested parties, selected by the
35 cochairs of the subcommittee.

36 (c) The University of Washington school of social work shall
37 convene the initial meeting of the task force.

38 (2) The task force shall:

1 (a) Develop and prepare to disseminate online trainings on
2 suicide awareness and prevention for firearms dealers and their
3 employees and firearm range owners and their employees;

4 (b) In consultation with the department of fish and wildlife,
5 review the firearm safety pamphlet produced by the department of fish
6 and wildlife under RCW 9.41.310 and, by January 1, 2017, recommend
7 changes to the pamphlet to incorporate information on suicide
8 awareness and prevention;

9 (c) Develop and approve suicide awareness and prevention messages
10 for posters and brochures that are tailored to be effective for
11 firearms owners for distribution to firearms dealers and firearms
12 ranges;

13 (d) Develop suicide awareness and prevention messages for posters
14 and brochures for distribution to pharmacies;

15 (e) In consultation with the department of fish and wildlife,
16 develop strategies for creating and disseminating suicide awareness
17 and prevention information for hunting safety classes, including
18 messages to parents that can be shared during online registration, in
19 either follow-up email communications, or in writing, or both;

20 (f) Develop suicide awareness and prevention messages for
21 training for the schools of pharmacy and provide input on trainings
22 being developed for community pharmacists;

23 (g) Create a web site that will be a clearinghouse for the newly
24 created suicide awareness and prevention materials developed by the
25 task force;

26 (h) Conduct a survey of firearms dealers and firearms ranges in
27 the state to determine the types and amounts of incentives that would
28 be effective in encouraging those entities to participate in
29 (~~((suicide-safer homes))~~) safer homes, suicide aware projects;

30 (i) Gather input on collateral educational materials that will
31 help health care professionals in suicide prevention work; and

32 (j) Create, implement, and evaluate a suicide awareness and
33 prevention pilot program in two counties, one rural and one urban,
34 that have high suicide rates. The pilot program shall include:

35 (i) Developing and directing advocacy efforts with firearms
36 dealers to pair suicide awareness and prevention training with
37 distribution of safe storage devices;

38 (ii) Developing and directing advocacy efforts with pharmacies to
39 pair suicide awareness and prevention training with distribution of
40 medication disposal kits and safe storage devices;

1 (iii) Training health care providers on suicide awareness and
2 prevention, paired with distribution of medication disposal kits and
3 safe storage devices; and

4 (iv) Training local law enforcement officers on suicide awareness
5 and prevention, paired with distribution of medication disposal kits
6 and safe storage devices.

7 (3) The task force shall, in consultation with the department of
8 health, develop and prioritize a list of projects to carry out the
9 task force's purposes and submit the prioritized list to the
10 department of health for funding from the ((~~suicide-safer-homes~~))
11 safer homes, suicide aware project account created in RCW 43.70.446.

12 (4) Beginning December 1, 2016, the task force shall annually
13 report to the legislature on the status of its work. The task force
14 shall submit a final report by December 1, 2019, that includes the
15 findings of the suicide awareness and prevention pilot program
16 evaluation under subsection (2) of this section and recommendations
17 on possible continuation of the program. The task force shall submit
18 its reports in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

19 (5) This section expires July 1, 2020.

20 **Sec. 6.** RCW 9.41.310 and 2016 c 90 s 4 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1) After a public hearing, the department of fish and wildlife
23 shall publish a pamphlet on firearms safety and the legal limits of
24 the use of firearms. The pamphlet shall include current information
25 on firearms laws and regulations and state preemption of local
26 firearms laws. By July 1, 2017, the department of fish and wildlife
27 shall update the pamphlet to incorporate information on suicide
28 awareness and prevention as recommended by the ((~~safe-homes~~)) safer
29 homes, suicide aware task force established in RCW 43.70.445.

30 (2) This pamphlet may be used in the department's hunter safety
31 education program and shall be provided to the department of
32 licensing for distribution to firearms dealers and persons authorized
33 to issue concealed pistol licenses. The department of fish and
34 wildlife shall reimburse the department of licensing for costs
35 associated with distribution of the pamphlet.

36 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.70.446 and 2017 c 262 s 3 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) The ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes, suicide aware
2 project is created within the department of health for the purpose of
3 accepting private funds for use by the ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer
4 homes, suicide aware task force created in RCW 43.70.445 in
5 developing and providing suicide education and prevention materials,
6 training, and outreach programs to help create suicide-safer homes.
7 The secretary may accept gifts, grants, donations, or moneys from any
8 source for deposit in the ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes,
9 suicide aware project account created in subsection (2) of this
10 section.

11 (2) The ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes, suicide aware
12 project account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The
13 account shall consist of funds appropriated by the legislature for
14 the ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes, suicide aware project
15 account and all receipts from gifts, grants, bequests, devises, or
16 other funds from public and private sources to support the activities
17 of the ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes, suicide aware project.
18 Only the secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's
19 designee, may authorize expenditures from the account to fund
20 projects identified and prioritized by the ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~
21 safer homes, suicide aware task force. Funds deposited in the
22 ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes, suicide aware project account
23 may be used for the development and production of suicide prevention
24 materials and training programs, for providing financial incentives
25 to encourage firearms dealers and others to participate in suicide
26 prevention training, and to implement pilot programs involving
27 community outreach on creating suicide-safer homes.

28 (3) The ~~((suicide-safer-homes))~~ safer homes, suicide aware
29 project account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter
30 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

31 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.70.447 and 2017 c 262 s 5 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) By July 1, 2020, the school of dentistry at the University of
34 Washington shall develop a curriculum on suicide assessment,
35 treatment, and management for dental students and licensed dentists.
36 The curriculum must meet the minimum standards established under RCW
37 43.70.442 and must include material on identifying at-risk patients
38 and limiting access to lethal means. When developing the curriculum,
39 the school of dentistry must consult with experts on suicide

1 assessment, treatment, and management and with the ((~~suicide-safer~~
2 ~~homes~~)) safer homes, suicide aware task force established in RCW
3 43.70.445. The school of dentistry shall submit a progress report to
4 the governor and the relevant committees of the legislature by July
5 1, 2019.

6 (2) The dental quality assurance commission shall, for purposes
7 of RCW 43.70.442(4)(a), consider a dentist who has successfully
8 completed the curriculum developed under subsection (1) of this
9 section prior to licensure as possessing the minimum training and
10 experience necessary to be exempt from the training requirements in
11 RCW 43.70.442.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** RCW 28B.20.746 is recodified as a section
13 in chapter 43.70 RCW.

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