

AMENDMENTS TO LB901

(Amendments to E & R amendments, ER143)

Introduced by Bolz

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 Sec. 2. Sections 2 to 6 of this act shall be known and
3 may be cited as the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid Training Act.

4 Sec. 3. The Legislature finds that:

5 (1) National statistics show that one in four Americans
6 will face a mental illness in his or her lifetime;

7 (2) Mental health first aid builds an understanding
8 of how mental illness affects Nebraskans, provides an overview
9 of common treatments, and teaches basic skills for providing
10 assistance to a person who may be developing symptoms or
11 experiencing a crisis; and

12 (3) A mental health first aid program is an education
13 program recognized on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
14 Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based
15 Programs and Practices.

16 Sec. 4. For purposes of the Nebraska Mental Health First
17 Aid Training Act, mental health first aid means the help provided
18 to a person who is experiencing a mental health or substance
19 abuse problem or in a mental health crisis before appropriate
20 professional assistance or other supports are secured.

21 Sec. 5. (1) The Division of Behavioral Health of the
22 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a mental

1 health first aid training program to help the public identify
2 and understand the signs of a mental illness or substance abuse
3 problem or a mental health crisis and to provide the public with
4 skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing a mental
5 health or substance abuse problem or a mental health crisis and
6 to de-escalate crisis situations if needed. The training program
7 shall provide an interactive mental health first aid training
8 course administered by the state's regional behavioral health
9 authorities. Instructors in the training program shall be certified
10 by a national authority for Mental Health First Aid USA or a
11 similar organization. The training program shall work cooperatively
12 with local entities to provide training for individuals to become
13 instructors.

14 (2) The mental health first aid training program shall
15 be designed to train individuals to accomplish the following
16 objectives as deemed appropriate considering the trainee's age:

17 (a) Help the public identify, understand, and respond to
18 the signs of mental illness and substance abuse;

19 (b) Emphasize the need to reduce the stigma of mental
20 illness; and

21 (c) Assist a person who is believed to be developing or
22 has developed a mental health or substance abuse problem or who is
23 believed to be experiencing a mental health crisis.

24 Sec. 6. The Department of Health and Human Services
25 shall ensure that evaluative criteria are established which measure
26 the efficacy of the training program, including trainee feedback,
27 with the objective of helping the public identify, understand, and

1 respond to the signs of mental illness and alcohol and substance
2 abuse. The department shall submit an annual report electronically
3 to the Legislature on trainee demographics and outcomes of the
4 established criteria.

5 Sec. 7. The behavioral health regions established
6 pursuant to section 71-807 shall offer services to and work with
7 agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, schools,
8 universities, colleges, the State Department of Education, the
9 Department of Veterans' Affairs, law enforcement agencies, and
10 local health departments, to develop a program that offers grants
11 to implement the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid Training Act in
12 ways that are representative and inclusive with respect to the
13 economic and cultural diversity of this state.

14 Sec. 8. It is the intent of the Legislature to
15 appropriate one hundred thousand dollars annually to the Department
16 of Health and Human Services to carry out the Nebraska Mental
17 Health First Aid Training Act.

18 2. Renumber the remaining section accordingly.