

AMENDMENTS TO LB901

(Amendments to E and 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;

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; and

16 (4) That the Behavioral Health Education Center
17 administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center has
18 conducted a series of mental health first aid training courses
19 and that the experience of providing such courses may be utilized
20 regarding the implementation of a mental health first aid training
21 program as prescribed by the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid
22 Training Act.

1 Sec. 4. For purposes of the Nebraska Mental Health First
2 Aid Training Act:

3 (1) Behavioral health regions means the behavioral health
4 regions established pursuant to section 71-807; and

5 (2) Mental health first aid means the help provided
6 to a person who is experiencing a mental health or substance
7 abuse problem or in a mental health crisis before appropriate
8 professional assistance or other supports are secured.

9 Sec. 5. (1) The Division of Behavioral Health of the
10 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a mental
11 health first aid training program, using contracts through the
12 behavioral health regions, to help the public identify and
13 understand the signs of a mental illness or substance abuse
14 problem or a mental health crisis and to provide the public with
15 skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing a mental
16 health or substance abuse problem or a mental health crisis and
17 to de-escalate crisis situations if needed. The training program
18 shall provide an interactive mental health first aid training
19 course administered by the state's regional behavioral health
20 authorities. Instructors in the training program shall be certified
21 by a national authority for Mental Health First Aid USA or a
22 similar organization. The training program shall work cooperatively
23 with local entities to provide training for individuals to become
24 instructors.

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

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

3 (b) Emphasize the need to reduce the stigma of mental
4 illness; and

5 (c) Assist a person who is believed to be developing or
6 has developed a mental health or substance abuse problem or who is
7 believed to be experiencing a mental health crisis.

8 Sec. 6. The Division of Behavioral Health of the
9 Department of Health and Human Services shall ensure that
10 evaluative criteria are established which measure the efficacy
11 of the training program, including trainee feedback, with the
12 objective of helping the public identify, understand, and respond
13 to the signs of mental illness and alcohol and substance abuse.
14 The behavioral health regions shall submit an aggregated annual
15 report electronically to the Legislature on trainee demographics
16 and outcomes of the established criteria.

17 Sec. 7. The behavioral health regions shall offer
18 services to and work with agencies and organizations, including,
19 but not limited to, schools, universities, colleges, the State
20 Department of Education, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, law
21 enforcement agencies, and local health departments, to develop
22 a program that offers grants to implement the Nebraska Mental
23 Health First Aid Training Act in ways that are representative and
24 inclusive with respect to the economic and cultural diversity of
25 this state.

26 Sec. 8. It is the intent of the Legislature to
27 appropriate one hundred thousand dollars annually to the Department

- 1 of Health and Human Services to carry out the Nebraska Mental
- 2 Health First Aid Training Act.
- 3 2. Renumber the remaining section accordingly.