



# House of Representatives

## File No. 825

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 81)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6780  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 14, 2015

***AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 20-74t of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2015*):

4 (a) On and after October 1, 2004, each alcohol and drug counselor  
5 licensed or certified pursuant to this chapter shall complete a  
6 minimum of twenty hours of continuing education each registration  
7 period. For purposes of this section, registration period means the  
8 twelve-month period for which a license or certificate has been  
9 renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.  
10 The continuing education shall be in areas related to the individual's  
11 practice and shall include not less than one contact hour of training or  
12 education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency  
13 and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of

14 training or education during the first renewal period in which  
15 continuing education is required and not less than once every six years  
16 thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans  
17 and family members of veterans, including (1) determining whether a  
18 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (2) screening for  
19 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,  
20 depression and grief, and (3) suicide prevention training. Qualifying  
21 continuing education activities are educational offerings sponsored by  
22 a hospital or other licensed health care institutions, courses offered by  
23 a regionally accredited institution of higher education or courses  
24 offered by individuals or organizations on the list maintained by the  
25 Connecticut Certification Board, Inc. as approved providers of such  
26 continuing education activities.

27 Sec. 2. Section 20-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

29 (a) No licensee under the provisions of this chapter shall use the title  
30 "Doctor" or any abbreviation or synonym thereof unless he or she  
31 holds the degree of doctor of chiropractic from a chartered chiropractic  
32 school or college, in which event the title shall be such as will  
33 designate the licensee as a practitioner of chiropractic. Each licensed  
34 chiropractor shall exhibit his or her name at the entrance of his or her  
35 place of business or on his or her office door. The Department of Public  
36 Health shall not initiate a disciplinary action against a licensed  
37 chiropractor who, prior to July 1, 2011, is alleged to have been  
38 practicing as a chiropractor under any name other than the name of the  
39 chiropractor actually owning the practice or a corporate name  
40 containing the name of such chiropractor.

41 (b) All licensed chiropractors applying for license renewal shall be  
42 required to participate in continuing education programs. Such  
43 programs shall include, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two  
44 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period  
45 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every  
46 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to

47 veterans and family members of veterans. The Commissioner of Public  
48 Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1)  
49 define basic requirements for continuing education programs, (2)  
50 delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and  
51 reporting, [and] (4) provide for waiver of the continuing education  
52 requirement for good cause, and (5) approve continuing education  
53 coursework appropriate for chiropractors on the subject of mental  
54 health conditions common to veterans and family members of  
55 veterans, including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or  
56 family member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-  
57 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C)  
58 suicide prevention training. For registration periods beginning on and  
59 after October 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Public Health, in  
60 consultation with the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, shall, on or  
61 before October 1, 2011, and biennially thereafter, issue a list that  
62 includes not more than five mandatory topics for continuing education  
63 activities that shall be required for the two subsequent registration  
64 periods following the date of issuance of such list.

65 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 20-191c of the general statutes is  
66 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
67 *October 1, 2015*):

68 (b) Qualifying continuing education activities shall be related to the  
69 practice of psychology and shall include courses, seminars, workshops,  
70 conferences and postdoctoral institutes offered or approved by: (1) The  
71 American Psychological Association; (2) a regionally accredited  
72 institution of higher education graduate program; (3) a nationally  
73 recognized provider of continuing education seminars; (4) the  
74 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; or (5) a  
75 behavioral science organization that is professionally or scientifically  
76 recognized. Not more than five continuing education units during  
77 each registration period shall be completed via the Internet, distance  
78 learning or home study. On and after January 1, 2016, qualifying  
79 continuing education activities shall include not less than two contact  
80 hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which

81 continuing education is required and not less than once every six years  
82 thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans  
83 and family members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a  
84 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for  
85 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,  
86 depression and grief, and (C) suicide prevention training. Qualifying  
87 continuing education activities may include a licensee's research-based  
88 presentation at a professional conference, provided not more than five  
89 continuing education units during each registration period shall be  
90 completed by such activities. A licensee who has earned a diploma  
91 from the American Board of Professional Psychology during the  
92 registration period may substitute the diploma for continuing  
93 education requirements for such registration period. For purposes of  
94 this section, "continuing education unit" means fifty to sixty minutes of  
95 participation in accredited continuing professional education.

96 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 20-195c of the general statutes is  
97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
98 *October 1, 2015*):

99 (c) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually in  
100 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such  
101 renewal shall be three hundred fifteen dollars. Each licensed marital  
102 and family therapist applying for license renewal shall furnish  
103 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having participated in  
104 continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt  
105 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) define basic  
106 requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include  
107 not less than one contact hour of training or education each  
108 registration period on the topic of cultural competency and, on and  
109 after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or  
110 education during the first renewal period in which continuing  
111 education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter  
112 on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and  
113 family members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a  
114 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for

115 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,  
116 depression and grief, and (C) suicide prevention training, (2) delineate  
117 qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting,  
118 and (4) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement for  
119 good cause.

120 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 20-195cc of the general statutes is  
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
122 *October 1, 2015*):

123 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually  
124 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one  
125 hundred ninety dollars. Each licensed professional counselor applying  
126 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the  
127 commissioner of having participated in continuing education  
128 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
129 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing  
130 education programs, which shall include not less than one contact  
131 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of  
132 cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than  
133 two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal  
134 period in which continuing education is required and not less than  
135 once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions  
136 common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (A)  
137 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a  
138 veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress  
139 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C) suicide  
140 prevention training, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a  
141 system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the  
142 continuing education requirement for good cause.

143 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 20-195u of the general statutes is  
144 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
145 *October 1, 2015*):

146 (b) Continuing education required pursuant to this section shall be

147 related to the practice of social work and shall include not less than  
148 one contact hour of training or education each registration period on  
149 the topic of cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not  
150 less than two contact hours of training or education during the first  
151 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less  
152 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health  
153 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,  
154 including (1) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family  
155 member of a veteran, (2) screening for conditions such as post-  
156 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (3)  
157 suicide prevention training. Such continuing education shall consist of  
158 courses, workshops and conferences offered or approved by the  
159 Association of Social Work Boards, the National Association of Social  
160 Workers or a school or department of social work accredited by the  
161 Council on Social Work Education. A licensee's ability to engage in on-  
162 line and home study continuing education shall be limited to not more  
163 than six hours per registration period. Within the registration period,  
164 an initial presentation by a licensee of an original paper, essay or  
165 formal lecture in social work to a recognized group of fellow  
166 professionals may account for five hours of continuing education  
167 hours of the aggregate continuing education requirements prescribed  
168 in this section.

169 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is  
170 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
171 *October 1, 2015*):

172 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of  
173 this section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a  
174 minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing medical education  
175 within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing  
176 medical education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2)  
177 reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health  
178 care needs of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in  
179 which continuing medical education is required and not less than once  
180 every six years thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training

181 or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases,  
182 including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome  
183 and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, (C) sexual  
184 assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, and (F)  
185 behavioral health, provided further that on and after January 1, 2016,  
186 such behavioral health continuing medical education shall include, but  
187 not be limited to, at least two contact hours of training or education  
188 during the first renewal period in which continuing education is  
189 required and not less than once every six years thereafter, on the topic  
190 of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members  
191 of veterans, including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or  
192 family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-  
193 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii)  
194 suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section, qualifying  
195 continuing medical education activities include, but are not limited to,  
196 courses offered or approved by the American Medical Association,  
197 American Osteopathic Medical Association, Connecticut Hospital  
198 Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, county medical  
199 societies or equivalent organizations in another jurisdiction,  
200 educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other health care  
201 institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited academic  
202 institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner, or  
203 the commissioner's designee, may grant a waiver for not more than ten  
204 contact hours of continuing medical education for a physician who: (i)  
205 Engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of  
206 the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, established pursuant to  
207 section 20-8a; (ii) engages in activities related to the physician's service  
208 as a member of a medical hearing panel, pursuant to section 20-8a; or  
209 (iii) assists the department with its duties to boards and commissions  
210 as described in section 19a-14.

211 Sec. 8. Section 20-94d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
212 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

213 (a) As used in this section:

- 214 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;
- 215 (2) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing  
216 education and activities;
- 217 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;
- 218 (4) "Licensee" means an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
219 pursuant to section 20-94a; and
- 220 (5) "Registration period" means the one-year period for which a  
221 license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is  
222 current and valid.
- 223 (b) Except as provided in this section, for registration periods  
224 beginning on and after October 1, 2014, a licensee applying for license  
225 renewal shall earn a minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing  
226 education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such  
227 continuing education shall: (1) Be in an area of the advanced practice  
228 registered nurse's practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the  
229 licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; (3) include  
230 at least five contact hours of training or education in  
231 pharmacotherapeutics; [and] (4) include at least one contact hour of  
232 training or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious  
233 diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency  
234 syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management,  
235 (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, and  
236 (F) substance abuse; and (5) on and after January 1, 2016, include not  
237 less than two contact hours of training or education during the first  
238 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less  
239 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health  
240 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,  
241 including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family  
242 member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-  
243 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C)  
244 suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section, qualifying  
245 continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses,

246 including on-line courses, offered or approved by the American  
247 Nurses Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut  
248 Nurses Association, Connecticut League for Nursing, a specialty  
249 nursing society or an equivalent organization in another jurisdiction,  
250 an educational offering sponsored by a hospital or other health care  
251 institution or a course offered by a regionally accredited academic  
252 institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner  
253 may grant a waiver of not more than ten contact hours of continuing  
254 education for an advanced practice registered nurse who: (i) Engages  
255 in activities related to the advanced practice registered nurse's service  
256 as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing,  
257 established pursuant to section 20-88; or (ii) assists the department  
258 with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-  
259 14.

260 (c) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section  
261 19a-88 shall sign a statement attesting that he or she has satisfied the  
262 continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on  
263 a form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records  
264 of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate  
265 compliance with the continuing education requirements of subsection  
266 (b) of this section for a minimum of three years following the year in  
267 which the continuing education activities were completed and shall  
268 submit such records or certificates to the department for inspection not  
269 later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such  
270 records or certificates.

271 (d) A licensee applying for the first time for license renewal  
272 pursuant to section 19a-88 is exempt from the continuing education  
273 requirements of this section.

274 (e) (1) A licensee who is not engaged in active professional practice  
275 in any form during a registration period shall be exempt from the  
276 continuing education requirements of this section, provided the  
277 licensee submits to the department, prior to the expiration of the  
278 registration period, a notarized application for exemption on a form

279 prescribed by the department and such other documentation as may  
280 be required by the department. The application for exemption  
281 pursuant to this subdivision shall contain a statement that the licensee  
282 may not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the  
283 requirements of this section.

284 (2) Any licensee who is exempt from the provisions of subsection (b)  
285 of this section for less than two years shall complete twenty-five  
286 contact hours of continuing education that meets the criteria set forth  
287 in subsection (b) of this section within the twelve-month period  
288 immediately preceding the licensee's return to active professional  
289 practice.

290 (f) In individual cases involving medical disability or illness, the  
291 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a waiver of  
292 the continuing education requirements or an extension of time within  
293 which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to  
294 any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an  
295 application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the  
296 department, along with a certification by a licensed physician,  
297 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse of the  
298 disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required  
299 by the commissioner. The commissioner or his or her designee may  
300 grant a waiver or extension for a period not to exceed one registration  
301 period, except that the commissioner or his or her designee may grant  
302 additional waivers or extensions if the medical disability or illness  
303 upon which a waiver or extension is granted continues beyond the  
304 period of the waiver or extension and the licensee applies for an  
305 additional waiver or extension.

306 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to section  
307 19a-88 and who applies to the department for reinstatement of such  
308 license pursuant to section 19a-14 shall submit evidence documenting  
309 successful completion of twenty-five contact hours of continuing  
310 education within the one-year period immediately preceding  
311 application for reinstatement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-74t(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-32
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-191c(b)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195c(c)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195cc(b)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195u(b)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-10b(b)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-94d

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill, which expands continuing education requirements for certain health care professionals, does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health (DPH) as these requirements are not anticipated to affect the number of license renewals or filed complaints. The bill also requires DPH to adopt regulations on such training or education for certain health care professionals. Since DPH has expertise in this area there is no fiscal impact.

House "A" makes changes to the continuing education requirements for certain health care professionals in the underlying bill that have no fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6780 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires certain health care professionals, starting January 1, 2016, to take at least two contact hours of training or education on mental health conditions common to veterans and their family members during the first renewal period in which continuing education (CE) is required and once every six years thereafter. This includes (1) determining whether a patient is a veteran or a relative; (2) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression, and grief; and (3) suicide prevention training.

The bill requires such CE for the following professions:

1. advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs),
2. alcohol and drug counselors,
3. chiropractors,
4. marital and family therapists,
5. physicians and surgeons,
6. professional counselors,
7. psychologists, and
8. social workers.

Under the bill, the public health commissioner must adopt regulations on such training or education for chiropractors, marital and family therapists, and professional counselors.

\*House Amendment "A" (1) decreases the frequency for the CE requirement, from each renewal period to the first renewal period CE is required and then once every six years and (2) makes a technical change to apply the CE requirements to all APRNs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/03/2015)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 24 Nay 3 (04/08/2015)