



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Substitute Bill No. 6780



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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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 each registration period on the topic of mental
15 health conditions common to veterans and family members of
16 veterans, including (1) determining whether a patient is a veteran or
17 family member of a veteran, (2) screening for conditions such as post-
18 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (3)
19 suicide prevention training. Qualifying continuing education activities

20 are educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed
21 health care institutions, courses offered by a regionally accredited
22 institution of higher education or courses offered by individuals or
23 organizations on the list maintained by the Connecticut Certification
24 Board, Inc. as approved providers of such continuing education
25 activities.

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 Section 20-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

40 (b) All licensed chiropractors applying for license renewal shall be
41 required to participate in continuing education programs. Such
42 programs shall include, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two
43 contact hours of training or education on the topic of mental health
44 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans. The
45 Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance
46 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
47 education programs, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a
48 system of control and reporting, [and] (4) provide for waiver of the
49 continuing education requirement for good cause, and (5) approve
50 continuing education coursework appropriate for chiropractors on the
51 subject of mental health conditions common to veterans and family
52 members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a patient is a

53 veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions
54 such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and
55 grief, and (C) suicide prevention training. For registration periods
56 beginning on and after October 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Public
57 Health, in consultation with the Board of Chiropractic Examiners,
58 shall, on or before October 1, 2011, and biennially thereafter, issue a list
59 that includes not more than five mandatory topics for continuing
60 education activities that shall be required for the two subsequent
61 registration periods following the date of issuance of such list.

62 Sec. 3. Section 20-94a of the general statutes is repealed and the
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

64 (a) The Department of Public Health may issue an advanced
65 practice registered nurse license to a person seeking to perform the
66 activities described in subsection (b) of section 20-87a, upon receipt of
67 a fee of two hundred dollars, to an applicant who: (1) Maintains a
68 license as a registered nurse in this state, as provided by section 20-93
69 or 20-94; (2) holds and maintains current certification as a nurse
70 practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist or a nurse anesthetist from one
71 of the following national certifying bodies that certify nurses in
72 advanced practice: The American Nurses' Association, the Nurses'
73 Association of the American College of Obstetricians and
74 Gynecologists Certification Corporation, the National Board of
75 Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates or the American
76 Association of Nurse Anesthetists, their successors or other
77 appropriate national certifying bodies approved by the Board of
78 Examiners for Nursing; (3) has completed thirty hours of education in
79 pharmacology for advanced nursing practice; and (4) (A) holds a
80 graduate degree in nursing or in a related field recognized for
81 certification as either a nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist, or
82 a nurse anesthetist by one of the foregoing certifying bodies, or (B) (i)
83 on or before December 31, 2004, completed an advanced nurse
84 practitioner program that a national certifying body identified in
85 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section recognized for

86 certification of a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or nurse
87 anesthetist, and (ii) at the time of application, holds a current license as
88 an advanced practice registered nurse in another state that requires a
89 master's degree in nursing or a related field for such licensure. No
90 license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against
91 whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject
92 of an unresolved complaint.

93 (b) During the period commencing January 1, 1990, and ending
94 January 1, 1992, the Department of Public Health may in its discretion
95 allow a registered nurse, who has been practicing as an advanced
96 practice registered nurse in a nurse practitioner role and who is unable
97 to obtain certification as a nurse practitioner by one of the national
98 certifying bodies specified in subsection (a) of this section, to be
99 licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse provided the
100 individual:

101 (1) Holds a current Connecticut license as a registered nurse
102 pursuant to this chapter;

103 (2) Presents the department with documentation of the reasons one
104 of such national certifying bodies will not certify him or her as a nurse
105 practitioner;

106 (3) Has been in active practice as a nurse practitioner for at least five
107 years in a facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-491;

108 (4) Provides the department with documentation of his or her
109 preparation as a nurse practitioner;

110 (5) Provides the department with evidence of at least seventy-five
111 contact hours, or its equivalent, of continuing education related to his
112 or her nurse practitioner specialty in the preceding five calendar years;

113 (6) Has completed thirty hours of education in pharmacology for
114 advanced nursing practice;

115 (7) Has his or her employer provide the department with a
116 description of his or her practice setting, job description, and a plan for
117 supervision by a licensed physician;

118 (8) Notifies the department of each change of employment to a new
119 setting where he or she will function as an advanced practice
120 registered nurse and will be exercising prescriptive and dispensing
121 privileges.

122 (c) Any person who obtains a license pursuant to subsection (b) of
123 this section shall be eligible to renew such license annually provided
124 he or she presents the department with evidence that he or she
125 received at least fifteen contact hours, or its equivalent, eight hours of
126 which shall be in pharmacology, of continuing education related to his
127 or her nurse practitioner specialty in the preceding licensure year. Such
128 continuing education shall include, on and after January 1, 2016, not
129 less than two contact hours of training or education on the topic of
130 mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of
131 veterans, including (1) determining whether a patient is a veteran or
132 family member of a veteran, (2) screening for conditions such as post-
133 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (3)
134 suicide prevention training. If an individual licensed pursuant to
135 subsection (b) of this subsection becomes eligible at any time for
136 certification as a nurse practitioner by one of the national certifying
137 bodies specified in subsection (a) of this section, the individual shall
138 apply for certification, and upon certification so notify the department,
139 and apply to be licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in
140 accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

141 (d) A person who has received a license pursuant to this section
142 shall be known as an "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" and no
143 other person shall assume such title or use the letters or figures [which]
144 that indicate that the person using the same is a licensed advanced
145 practice registered nurse.

146 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 20-191c of the general statutes is

147 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
148 *October 1, 2015*):

149 (b) Qualifying continuing education activities shall be related to the
150 practice of psychology and shall include courses, seminars, workshops,
151 conferences and postdoctoral institutes offered or approved by: (1) The
152 American Psychological Association; (2) a regionally accredited
153 institution of higher education graduate program; (3) a nationally
154 recognized provider of continuing education seminars; (4) the
155 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; or (5) a
156 behavioral science organization that is professionally or scientifically
157 recognized. Not more than five continuing education units during
158 each registration period shall be completed via the Internet, distance
159 learning or home study. On and after January 1, 2016, qualifying
160 continuing education activities shall include not less than two contact
161 hours of training or education on the topic of mental health conditions
162 common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (A)
163 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a
164 veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress
165 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C) suicide
166 prevention training. Qualifying continuing education activities may
167 include a licensee's research-based presentation at a professional
168 conference, provided not more than five continuing education units
169 during each registration period shall be completed by such activities. A
170 licensee who has earned a diploma from the American Board of
171 Professional Psychology during the registration period may substitute
172 the diploma for continuing education requirements for such
173 registration period. For purposes of this section, "continuing education
174 unit" means fifty to sixty minutes of participation in accredited
175 continuing professional education.

176 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 20-195c of the general statutes is
177 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
178 *October 1, 2015*):

179 (c) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually in

180 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such
181 renewal shall be three hundred fifteen dollars. Each licensed marital
182 and family therapist applying for license renewal shall furnish
183 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having participated in
184 continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt
185 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) define basic
186 requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include
187 not less than one contact hour of training or education each
188 registration period on the topic of cultural competency and, on and
189 after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or
190 education each registration period on the topic of mental health
191 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
192 including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
193 member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-
194 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C)
195 suicide prevention training, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3)
196 establish a system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for waiver
197 of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

198 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 20-195cc of the general statutes is
199 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
200 *October 1, 2015*):

201 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
202 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one
203 hundred ninety dollars. Each licensed professional counselor applying
204 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
205 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
206 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
207 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
208 education programs, which shall include not less than one contact
209 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of
210 cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than
211 two contact hours of training or education each registration period on
212 the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family

213 members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a patient is a
214 veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions
215 such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and
216 grief, and (C) suicide prevention training, (2) delineate qualifying
217 programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting, and (4)
218 provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement for good
219 cause.

220 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 20-195u of the general statutes is
221 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
222 *October 1, 2015*):

223 (b) Continuing education required pursuant to this section shall be
224 related to the practice of social work and shall include not less than
225 one contact hour of training or education each registration period on
226 the topic of cultural competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not
227 less than two contact hours of training or education each registration
228 period on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans
229 and family members of veterans, including (1) determining whether a
230 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (2) screening for
231 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,
232 depression and grief, and (3) suicide prevention training. Such
233 continuing education shall consist of courses, workshops and
234 conferences offered or approved by the Association of Social Work
235 Boards, the National Association of Social Workers or a school or
236 department of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work
237 Education. A licensee's ability to engage in on-line and home study
238 continuing education shall be limited to not more than six hours per
239 registration period. Within the registration period, an initial
240 presentation by a licensee of an original paper, essay or formal lecture
241 in social work to a recognized group of fellow professionals may
242 account for five hours of continuing education hours of the aggregate
243 continuing education requirements prescribed in this section.

244 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is
245 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

246 *October 1, 2015*):

247 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of
248 this section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a
249 minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing medical education
250 within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing
251 medical education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2)
252 reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health
253 care needs of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in
254 which continuing medical education is required and not less than once
255 every six years thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training
256 or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases,
257 including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome
258 and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, (C) sexual
259 assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, and (F)
260 behavioral health, and on and after January 1, 2016, include not less
261 than two contact hours of training or education each renewal period
262 on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and
263 family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a
264 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for
265 conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,
266 depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training. For
267 purposes of this section, qualifying continuing medical education
268 activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved
269 by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Medical
270 Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut State
271 Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent organizations
272 in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital
273 or other health care institution or courses offered by a regionally
274 accredited academic institution or a state or local health department.
275 The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a
276 waiver for not more than ten contact hours of continuing medical
277 education for a physician who: (i) Engages in activities related to the
278 physician's service as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining
279 Board, established pursuant to section 20-8a; (ii) engages in activities

280 related to the physician's service as a member of a medical hearing
281 panel, pursuant to section 20-8a; or (iii) assists the department with its
282 duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-14.

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>	20-94a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-191c(b)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195c(c)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195cc(b)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195u(b)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-10b(b)

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

PH *Joint Favorable*