

SS SB 490 -- SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

SPONSOR: Schupp (Frederick)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill allows health care professionals, as defined in the bill, to annually complete up to two hours of suicide assessment, referral, treatment, and management training as part of the continuing education requirements for licensure as a health care professional.

Psychologists are required to complete two hours of such training as a condition of initial licensure. The bill also requires behavior analysts, professional counselors, social workers, baccalaureate social workers, and marital and family therapists to complete two hours of suicide assessment, referral, treatment, and management training as a condition of initial licensure and as a condition of license renewal. The training shall count toward any continuing education required for such license.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help save the lives of people who would commit suicide. Many Missourians who complete suicide have contact with health care professionals or mental health care professionals before their death, and many deaths can be prevented if health care and mental health care professionals have training to assess, refer, treat, and manage patients contemplating suicide.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schupp; Rebecca Pamperl, American Foundation of Suicide Prevention; Beth Hendren, American Foundation of Suicide Prevention; Kevin Dolinger; Wayne Lee; and Dave Coble.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.