

HB 251 -- TRICIA LEANN THARP ACT

SPONSOR: Morris (140)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 17 to 0.

This bill establishes the "Tricia Leann Tharp Act" and states that the Board of Pharmacy shall recommend two hours of continuing education in suicide awareness and prevention for all licensed pharmacists. The two hours of suicide awareness and prevention education would count towards the total continuing education requirement for license renewal for every pharmacist. The board is authorized to develop guidelines to establish the curriculum.

This bill is the same as HB 1626 (2018) and HCS HB 329 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will save lives because pharmacists are involved in a patient's health and pharmacists are accessible seven days a week. There are educational programs for pharmacists and suicide awareness and prevention training will help patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris and Wayne Lee.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.