

H.74

An act relating to safety protocols for social and mental health workers

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 82 is added to read:

CHAPTER 82. SAFETY PROVISIONS FOR WORKERS

§ 8201. SAFETY POLICIES FOR EMPLOYEES DELIVERING DIRECT
SOCIAL SERVICES

(a)(1) The Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with each department of the Agency, shall establish and maintain a written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy that meets or exceeds the requirements of this chapter in place for the benefit of employees delivering direct social services.

(2) The Secretary shall ensure that its contracts with providers whose employees deliver direct social services and that are administered or designated but not otherwise licensed by a department of the Agency include the requirement that providers establish and maintain a written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy that meets or exceeds the requirements of this chapter in place for the benefit of employees delivering direct social services.

(b) A written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy prepared with input from employees delivering direct social services shall minimally include the following:

(1) measures the program intends to take to respond to an incident of or credible threat of workplace violence against employees delivering direct social services;

(2) a system for centrally recording all incidents of or credible threats of workplace violence against employees delivering direct social services;

(3) a training program to educate employees delivering direct social services about workplace violence and ways to reduce the risks; and

(4) the development and maintenance of a violence prevention and response committee that includes employees delivering direct social services to monitor ongoing compliance with the violence prevention and crisis response policy and to assist employees delivering direct social services.

(c) In preparing the written violence prevention and crisis response policy required by this section, the Secretary and providers identified in subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall consult the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers as amended.

(d) A written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy shall be evaluated annually and updated as necessary by the violence and

prevention response committee and provided to employees delivering direct social services.

(e) The requirements of this section shall neither be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity by the State, nor as creating any private right of action against the State for damages resulting from failure to comply with this section.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 7114 is added to read:

§ 7114. SAFETY POLICIES FOR EMPLOYEES DELIVERING DIRECT SOCIAL SERVICES

(a) The Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with each department of the Agency, shall establish and maintain a workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy for the benefit of employees delivering direct social services pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 8201.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that its contracts with providers described in 33 V.S.A. § 8201(a)(2) require the providers to establish and maintain a written workplace violence prevention and crisis response policy for the benefit of employees delivering direct social services pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 8201.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to safety policies for employees delivering direct social services”