



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2015

LCO No. 6762



Offered by:  
REP. HENNESSY, 127<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6780

File No. 81

Cal. No. 77

**"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."**

1 In line 14, strike "each registration period" and insert in lieu thereof  
2 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is  
3 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

4 In line 43, after "education" insert "during the first renewal period in  
5 which continuing education is required and not less than once every  
6 six years thereafter"

7 Strike section 3 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections  
8 and internal references accordingly

9 In line 161, after "education" insert "during the first renewal period  
10 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every  
11 six years thereafter"

12 In line 190, strike "each registration period" and insert in lieu thereof  
13 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is  
14 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

15 In line 211, strike "each registration period" and insert in lieu thereof  
16 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is  
17 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

18 In line 227, strike "each registration"

19 In line 228, strike "period" and insert in lieu thereof "during the first  
20 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less  
21 than once every six years thereafter"

22 In line 261, strike "each renewal period" and insert in lieu thereof  
23 "during the first renewal period in which continuing education is  
24 required and not less than once every six years thereafter"

25 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
26 internal references accordingly:

27 "Sec. 501. Section 20-94d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

29 (a) As used in this section:

30 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

31 (2) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing  
32 education and activities;

33 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

34 (4) "Licensee" means an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
35 pursuant to section 20-94a; and

36 (5) "Registration period" means the one-year period for which a  
37 license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is

38 current and valid.

39 (b) Except as provided in this section, for registration periods  
40 beginning on and after October 1, 2014, a licensee applying for license  
41 renewal shall earn a minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing  
42 education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such  
43 continuing education shall: (1) Be in an area of the advanced practice  
44 registered nurse's practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the  
45 licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; (3) include  
46 at least five contact hours of training or education in  
47 pharmacotherapeutics; [and] (4) include at least one contact hour of  
48 training or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious  
49 diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency  
50 syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management,  
51 (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, and  
52 (F) substance abuse; and (5) on and after January 1, 2016, include not  
53 less than two contact hours of training or education during the first  
54 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less  
55 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health  
56 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,  
57 including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family  
58 member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-  
59 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C)  
60 suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section, qualifying  
61 continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses,  
62 including on-line courses, offered or approved by the American  
63 Nurses Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut  
64 Nurses Association, Connecticut League for Nursing, a specialty  
65 nursing society or an equivalent organization in another jurisdiction,  
66 an educational offering sponsored by a hospital or other health care  
67 institution or a course offered by a regionally accredited academic  
68 institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner  
69 may grant a waiver of not more than ten contact hours of continuing  
70 education for an advanced practice registered nurse who: (i) Engages  
71 in activities related to the advanced practice registered nurse's service

72 as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing,  
73 established pursuant to section 20-88; or (ii) assists the department  
74 with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-  
75 14.

76 (c) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section  
77 19a-88 shall sign a statement attesting that he or she has satisfied the  
78 continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on  
79 a form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records  
80 of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate  
81 compliance with the continuing education requirements of subsection  
82 (b) of this section for a minimum of three years following the year in  
83 which the continuing education activities were completed and shall  
84 submit such records or certificates to the department for inspection not  
85 later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such  
86 records or certificates.

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

90 (e) (1) A licensee who is not engaged in active professional practice  
91 in any form during a registration period shall be exempt from the  
92 continuing education requirements of this section, provided the  
93 licensee submits to the department, prior to the expiration of the  
94 registration period, a notarized application for exemption on a form  
95 prescribed by the department and such other documentation as may  
96 be required by the department. The application for exemption  
97 pursuant to this subdivision shall contain a statement that the licensee  
98 may not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the  
99 requirements of this section.

100 (2) Any licensee who is exempt from the provisions of subsection (b)  
101 of this section for less than two years shall complete twenty-five  
102 contact hours of continuing education that meets the criteria set forth  
103 in subsection (b) of this section within the twelve-month period

104 immediately preceding the licensee's return to active professional  
105 practice.

106 (f) In individual cases involving medical disability or illness, the  
107 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a waiver of  
108 the continuing education requirements or an extension of time within  
109 which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to  
110 any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an  
111 application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the  
112 department, along with a certification by a licensed physician,  
113 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse of the  
114 disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required  
115 by the commissioner. The commissioner or his or her designee may  
116 grant a waiver or extension for a period not to exceed one registration  
117 period, except that the commissioner or his or her designee may grant  
118 additional waivers or extensions if the medical disability or illness  
119 upon which a waiver or extension is granted continues beyond the  
120 period of the waiver or extension and the licensee applies for an  
121 additional waiver or extension.

122 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to section  
123 19a-88 and who applies to the department for reinstatement of such  
124 license pursuant to section 19a-14 shall submit evidence documenting  
125 successful completion of twenty-five contact hours of continuing  
126 education within the one-year period immediately preceding  
127 application for reinstatement."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	October 1, 2015	20-94d