A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A WEBSITE WITH INFORMATION AND INTERNET LINKS TO AVAILABLE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION AND ENCOURAGING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO TAKE A COURSE IN MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION TO SATISFY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)
No later than July 1, 2020, the department of human services (department), with assistance from other departments and organizations, shall create and maintain a website that provides internet links to relevant information and resources available to individuals seeking behavioral health care services. The website must include information about the Colorado SEE ME campaign and the national suicide prevention hotline, demographic-specific information about behavioral health care providers available in each geographic region, internet links to each behavioral health care provider’s website, and internet links to skilled nursing facilities available in each geographic region.

No later than April 1, 2021, the department shall issue a request for proposal to contract with an organization to develop and distribute community- and demographic-specific targeted messaging related to the website. The messaging must be distributed no later than January 1, 2022.

The bill allows a health care professional who is required to complete continuing competency requirements to take a course in mental health education to satisfy the continuing competency requirements.

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add article 71 to title 27 as follows:

ARTICLE 71
Mental Health Education and Suicide Prevention Resources

27-71-101. Definitions. As used in this Article 71, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Behavioral health" has the same meaning as set forth in section 27-60-100.3 (1).

(2) "State department" means the state department of human services created pursuant to section 26-1-105.

27-71-102. Mental health education and suicide prevention resources - website created. (1) No later than July 1, 2020, the state department, with assistance from the department of health care policy and financing, the department of public
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, THE SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION
CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-111, AND A STATEWIDE
ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH PROVIDERS, SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A WEBSITE THAT
PROVIDES INTERNET LINKS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
SERVICES.

(2) THE WEBSITE CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
SECTION MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH CARE RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

(a) INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO SEE ME CAMPAIGN,
WHICH ADDRESSES THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH SEEKING BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SUPPORT;

(b) INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION
LIFELINE;

(c) DEMOGRAPHIC-SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AVAILABLE IN EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION,
INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

(I) CATEGORIES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SPECIALTIES
AVAILABLE; AND

(II) THE PAYOR TYPE ACCEPTED BY EACH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CARE PROVIDER;

(d) INTERNET LINKS TO EACH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
PROVIDER'S WEBSITE; AND

(e) INTERNET LINKS TO SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES AVAILABLE
IN EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION.

(3) ANY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL MAY
REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO THE WEBSITE CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. IN DOING SO, THE ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL MUST PROVIDE THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH AN INTERNET LINK TO THE ORGANIZATION'S OR INDIVIDUAL'S WEBSITE, ALONG WITH ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING A LIST OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES THE ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL OFFERS.

(4) The state department may solicit, accept, and expend any gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources to implement the provisions of this section.

27-71-103. Request for proposal - community-specific targeted messaging. (1) No later than April 1, 2021, the state department shall issue a request for proposal to contract with an organization to develop and distribute community- and demographic-specific targeted messaging related to the website created pursuant to section 27-71-102.

(2) The messaging described in subsection (1) of this section must be distributed no later than January 1, 2022.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 12-30-115 as follows:

12-30-115. Demonstrated competency - health care professionals. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title 12, if a health care professional is required to complete a continuing competency or continuing education requirement as a condition of renewing, reactivating, or reinstating the health care professional's license, the health care professional may take a course in mental health education to satisfy the
CONTINUING COMPETENCY OR CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

(2) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION" INCLUDES ANY COURSE THAT TEACHES THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE OR CRISIS, WHAT TO DO IN A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY, AND WHERE TO GET HELP.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.