A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 to require continuing education for licensed health professionals on the subject of suicide risk assessment, treatment, and management to provide comprehensive care for at-risk patients.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Suicide Prevention Continuing Education Amendment Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 101 is amended by inserting a new paragraph (13A) as follows:

“(13A) “Suicide Postvention” means a crisis intervention strategy designed to assist with the grief process following suicide loss, which, when used appropriately, reduces the risk of
(b) Section 510 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (5)(B)(vii) is amended by striking the phrase “identify as LGBTQ.” and inserting the phrase “identify as LGBTQ; and” in its place.

(B) A new paragraph (6) is added to read as follows:

“(6)(A) Except as provided in subsection (b-1)(4) of this section, require that any continuing education requirements for the practice of any health occupation licensed, registered, or certified under this section include 2 credits of evidence-based training in suicide prevention, assessment and screening, treatment, management, and postvention.

“(B) The instruction required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall teach attitudes, knowledge, and skills that enable health care professionals to identify and care effectively for patients who are at risk of suicide, which may include:

“(i) Suicide assessment, including screening and referral, suicide treatment, and suicide management; and

“(ii) Programs listed on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s Resources and Programs finder.”.

(2) Subsection (b-1)(4) is amended by striking the phrase “subsection (b)(5)” and inserting the phrase “subsections (b)(5) or (b)(6)” in its place.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
Impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.