



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB1538

by Rep. Esther Golar

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Mental Health First Aid Training Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall establish and administer the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program so that certified trainers can provide Illinois residents, professionals, and members of the public with training on how to identify and assist someone who is believed to be developing or has developed a mental health disorder or an alcohol or substance abuse disorder or who is believed to be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. Provides that subject to appropriations made to, or with the use of appropriations directed by, the Department of Human Services and other State agencies, the Department and other State agencies shall support training grants for Illinois Mental Health First Aid training. Provides that these training grants may support hardship subsidies for Illinois Mental Health First Aid training fees. Provides that the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program shall be designed to train individuals to accomplish certain objectives including (i) building mental health, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse literacy designed to help the public identify, understand, and respond to the signs of mental illness, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse and (ii) knowing how to prevent a mental health disorder or an alcohol or substance abuse disorder from deteriorating into a more serious condition which may lead to more costly interventions and treatments. Contains provisions concerning the distribution of training grants and other matters. Effective immediately.

LRB098 08366 KTG 38471 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois Mental Health First Aid Training Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. Through the use of innovative
7 strategies, Mental Health First Aid training shall be
8 implemented throughout the State. Mental Health First Aid
9 training is designed to train individuals to assist someone who
10 is developing a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
11 substance abuse disorder, or who is experiencing a mental
12 health or substance abuse crisis and it can be reasonably
13 assumed that a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
14 substance abuse disorder is a contributing or precipitating
15 factor.

16 Section 10. Definitions.

17 "Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program" means
18 the Mental Health First Aid training program established by the
19 Department of Human Services.

20 "Certified trainers" means individuals who obtain
21 certification in Mental Health First Aid training by
22 successfully completing (i) the Instructor Training Program

1 offered by the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training
2 program or (ii) the Instructor Training Program offered by the
3 National Authorities of Mental Health First Aid USA.

4 Section 15. Illinois Mental Health First Aid training
5 program. The Department of Human Services shall establish and
6 administer the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training
7 program so that certified trainers can provide Illinois
8 residents, professionals, and members of the public with
9 training on how to identify and assist someone who is believed
10 to be developing or has developed a mental health disorder or
11 an alcohol or substance abuse disorder or who is believed to be
12 experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

13 Section 20. Mental health first aid training grants.
14 Subject to appropriations made to, or with the use of
15 appropriations directed by, the Department of Human Services
16 and other State agencies, the Department of Human Services and
17 other State agencies shall support training grants for Illinois
18 Mental Health First Aid training. These training grants may
19 support hardship subsidies for Illinois Mental Health First Aid
20 training fees.

21 Section 25. Objectives of the training program. The
22 Illinois Mental Health First Aid training program shall be
23 designed to train individuals to accomplish the following

1 objectives as deemed appropriate for the individuals to be
2 trained, taking into consideration the individual's age:

3 (1) Build mental health, alcohol abuse, and substance
4 abuse literacy designed to help the public identify,
5 understand, and respond to the signs of mental illness,
6 alcohol abuse, and substance abuse.

7 (2) Assist someone who is believed to be developing or
8 has developed a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
9 substance abuse disorder or who is believed to be
10 experiencing a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
11 substance abuse crisis. Such assistance shall include the
12 following:

13 (A) Knowing how to recognize the symptoms of a
14 mental health disorder or an alcohol or substance abuse
15 disorder.

16 (B) Knowing how to provide initial help.

17 (C) Knowing how to guide individuals requiring
18 assistance toward appropriate professional help,
19 including help for individuals who may be in crisis.

20 (D) Knowing how to provide comfort to the person
21 experiencing a mental health disorder or an alcohol or
22 substance abuse disorder.

23 (E) Knowing how to prevent a mental health disorder
24 or an alcohol or substance abuse disorder from
25 deteriorating into a more serious condition which may
26 lead to more costly interventions and treatments.

1 (F) Knowing how to promote healing, recovery, and
2 good mental health.

3 Section 30. Distribution of training grants. When awarding
4 training grants under this Act, the Department or other
5 appropriate State agency shall distribute training grants
6 equitably among the geographical regions of the State paying
7 particular attention to the training needs of rural areas and
8 areas with underserved populations or professional shortages.

9 Section 35. Evaluation. The Department of Human Services,
10 as the Illinois Mental Health First Aid training authority,
11 shall ensure that evaluative criteria are established which
12 measure the distribution of the training grants and the
13 fidelity of the training processes to the objective of building
14 mental health, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse literacy
15 designed to help the public identify, understand, and respond
16 to the signs of mental illness, alcohol abuse, and substance
17 abuse.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.