



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 259**

### **SENATE BILL NO. 615**

**By Bell, Jackson**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 180

By Hall, Ramsey, Smith, Powell, Harris, Clemmons

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 33; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to mental health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Facility" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-11-201;

(2) "Healthcare provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or authorized or permitted by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession; and

(3) "Qualified mental health professional" has the same meaning as defined in § 33-1-101.

(b) If a patient who is an inpatient in a licensed healthcare facility, or seeking services from an emergency department, expresses to a healthcare provider a recent threat or attempt at suicide or infliction of bodily harm to themselves, then the healthcare provider shall enter the attempt or threat into the patient's medical record. Upon discharge from the facility, the facility shall provide the patient with contact information to access a qualified mental health professional or counseling resource unless the patient is discharged to another facility. This referral requirement may be satisfied by providing contact information for this state's mobile crisis services or the statewide crisis hotline.

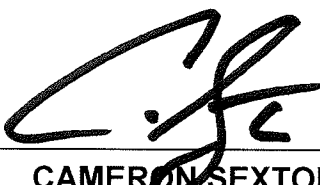
(c) A healthcare provider who violates this section is subject to discipline by the healthcare provider's licensing authority.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to facility admissions occurring on or after that date.

SENATE BILL NO. 615

PASSED: April 12, 2021

  
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RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021

  
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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR