

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2021

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1394**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin**

February 19, 2021

---

---

An act to add Division 1.7 (commencing with Section 1199) to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1394, as amended, Irwin. General acute care hospitals: suicide screening.

Existing law licenses and regulates general acute care hospitals as a type of health facility having a duly constituted governing body with overall administrative and professional responsibility and an organized medical staff that provides 24-hour inpatient care that includes medical, nursing, surgical, anesthesia, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, and dietary services. Existing law establishes the Office of Suicide Prevention upon appropriation of funds for those purposes.

This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2023, a general acute care hospital to establish and adopt written policies and procedures to screen patients ~~who are 12 to 24 years of age, inclusive,~~ for purposes of detecting a risk for suicide. The bill would require the procedures to include, among other things, a designation of the licensed staff who are responsible for the implementation of the policies and procedures. The bill would further require a general acute care hospital to routinely screen patients ~~who are 12 to 24 years of age, inclusive,~~ for a risk of suicide in compliance with the policies and procedures.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Division 1.7 (commencing with Section 1199)  
2 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

3

4

DIVISION 1.7. SUICIDE SCREENING

5

6 1199. (a) On or before January 1, 2023, a general acute care  
7 hospital shall establish and adopt written policies and procedures  
8 to screen patients ~~who are 12 to 24 years of age, inclusive,~~ for  
9 purposes of detecting a risk for suicide.

10 (b) The procedures established pursuant to this section shall  
11 accomplish all of the following:

12 (1) Identify, as part of a medical screening, a patient’s risk for  
13 suicide.

14 (2) Document in the medical record a patient’s risk for suicide.

15 (3) Provide to a patient who exhibits any sign of a risk for  
16 suicide a current referral list of private and public community  
17 agencies that provide, or arrange for, the evaluation, counseling,  
18 and care of persons experiencing a risk of suicide, including, but  
19 not limited to, hotlines and locally available mental health services.

20 (4) Designate the licensed staff to be responsible for the  
21 implementation of these policies and procedures.

22 (c) After the adoption of written policies and procedures  
23 pursuant to subdivision (a), a general acute care hospital shall  
24 routinely screen patients ~~who are 12 to 24 years of age, inclusive,~~  
25 for a risk of suicide in compliance with those policies and  
26 procedures.

27 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that a general acute care  
28 hospital, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,  
29 adopt guidelines similar to those developed by the National  
30 Institute for Mental Health regarding screening for suicide risk.  
31 The Legislature recognizes that while guidelines evolve and  
32 change, the guidelines by the National Institute for Mental Health  
33 may serve, at this time, as a model to follow.

O