

## **New Renewal Requirement Coming Soon: Training concerning Human Trafficking**

*Note: The information below concerns changes that are not yet in effect. Refer to the current [Act and Rules](#) and the [Continuing Education](#) and [License Renewal](#) pages for current CE and renewal requirements.*

House Bill (HB) 2059 of the last legislative session added the completion of training on the prevention of human trafficking as a condition for license renewal. To meet the requirement, certain health care practitioners, no sooner than September 1, 2020, will be required to complete a training course on human trafficking that is approved by the Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in order to renew a license. In addition, the bill requires that HHSC approve at least one course that is available without charge.

The Board has proposed rules regarding adding this requirement for all licensees. Information regarding the proposed rules may be found on the [Act and Rules](#) page.

**It is anticipated that this requirement will be in effect for all renewals on or after September 1, 2020 and this will be a requirement for each renewal period thereafter (i.e., that this training must be completed each renewal period).**

**Renewals completed before September 1, 2020 would not require the training.**

The Board's proposed rules would add this training as a CE requirement, and the minimum number of CE hours required for renewal would need to include this training. In other words, this training would be used to satisfy part of the number of CE hours already required for license renewal. Refer to further information on the [Act and Rules](#) page regarding related proposed rules.

Licensees may already access the HHSC approved course from the link below. The course is online and available free of charge. The course is a one-hour course. Currently, only one course has been approved by HHSC.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center/health-care-practitioner-human-trafficking-training>

Specific details regarding the implementation of this training will be disseminated closer to the anticipated effective date. However, licensees who complete the HHSC approved training prior to the Board's adoption of related proposed rules should retain documentation of course completion. The Board's proposed rules, for example, include that documentation of completion of the course would be a certificate of completion or letter of verification indicating credit awarded. Information regarding general TBOTE documentation requirements for CE, for example, are contained in Chapter 367, Continuing Education, of the OT Rules.

Please note that the proposed rules do not require that licensees complete a specific number of hours of training as HB 2059 does not set a minimum amount of hours for this training. If the course is approved by HHSC to meet the training requirement, then the number of hours of the course would be sufficient to meet the requirement. In other words, the Board has not proposed a minimum number of hours that the course must include. Instead, licensees might select whichever HHSC approved course fits their needs. As noted, currently, only one course has been approved by HHSC to meet the requirement and it is a one-hour course. Refer to the link above for further information regarding such.

The proposed rules also include that a specific training course may be repeated to meet this requirement for a subsequent renewal period. For example, if a licensee took a specific course for one renewal period to meet the training requirement for that renewal, the licensee could retake the course the next renewal period to satisfy the training requirement for that next renewal period.

It is anticipated that an agenda item concerning possible adoption of the proposed rules will be on the Board's agenda for its July 31, 2020 board meeting.

**Updated information regarding this new requirement prior to the effective date and further details to follow will be updated on the Board's webpages, will be disseminated through mass emails, and will appear in upcoming editions of the TBOTE News newsletter. Please continue to monitor such for updates.**