

HB 1644 -- TRICIA LEANN THARP ACT

SPONSOR: Schwadron

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill establishes the "Tricia Leann Tharp Act" and states that the Board of Pharmacy shall recommend two hours of continuing education in suicide awareness and prevention for all licensed pharmacists. The two hours of suicide awareness and prevention education would count toward the total continuing education requirement for license renewal for every pharmacist. The Board of Pharmacy is authorized to develop guidelines to establish the curriculum.

This bill is similar to HB 1317 (2021).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that pharmacists interact with patients with a higher degree of frequency than other medical professionals, and often on a more individual basis. With proper suicide prevention training and greater awareness, pharmacists could be better equipped to recognize signs of depression and suicide in patients, and provide necessary assistance.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schwadron; Dr. Robert Lawrence Salter, Pharmacists Preventing Suicides, Inc. 501-C-3 NFP Organization; Peggy Tharp; Arnie C. Dienoff; and Kendall Martinez-Wright.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.