

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 73**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson**

December 12, 2024

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An act to add Sections 18998.15 and 18998.35 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 73, as introduced, Jackson. Mental Health: Black Mental Health Navigator Certification.

Existing law establishes, within the Health and Welfare Agency, the Department of Health Care Access and Information, which is responsible for, among other things, administering various health professions training and development programs. Existing law requires the department to develop and approve statewide requirements for community health worker certificate programs. Existing law defines “community health worker” to mean a liaison, link, or intermediary between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services and to improve the access and cultural competence of service delivery.

This bill would require the department to develop criteria for a specialty certificate program and specialized training requirements for a Black Mental Health Navigator Certification, as specified. The bill would require the department to collect and regularly publish data, not less than annually, including, but not limited to, the number of individuals certified, including those who complete a specialty certificate program, as specified, and the number of individuals who are actively employed in a community health worker role. The bill would make these provisions subject to an appropriation by the Legislature.

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. Section 18998.15 is added to the Welfare and  
2     Institutions Code, to read:  
3     18998.15. (a) (1) Pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a)  
4     of Section 18998.1, the department shall, upon appropriation by  
5     the Legislature, develop criteria for a specialty certificate program  
6     and specialized training requirements for a Black Mental Health  
7     Navigator Certification.  
8     (2) The department shall solicit stakeholder feedback on the  
9     criteria for the certificate.  
10    (3) The department may engage a community-based organization  
11    with relevant expertise about mental health and wellness in Black  
12    communities to advise on or to develop the criteria.  
13    (b) The Black Mental Health Navigator Certification specialty  
14    certificate program and specialized training shall include  
15    comprehensive training in mental health resources and awareness,  
16    including, but not limited to, entry-level assessments, crisis  
17    intervention training for nonemergency cases, navigation support,  
18    and culturally specific practices relative to delivering public health  
19    and mental health assistance to help connect individuals with state  
20    resources, licensed mental health professionals, and wellness  
21    services.  
22    SEC. 2. Section 18998.35 is added to the Welfare and  
23    Institutions Code, to read:  
24    18998.35. (a) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the  
25    department shall collect and regularly publish data, not less than  
26    annually, including, but not limited to, both of the following:  
27    (1) The number of individuals certified, and corresponding  
28    demographic information on the individuals certified, including  
29    those who complete a specialty certificate program and specialized  
30    training, by each type of certificate.  
31    (2) The number of individuals who are actively employed in a  
32    community health worker role.

- 1 (b) This section does not require the reporting of the names or
- 2 personal identifying information.

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