

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6658

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Revising experience requirements for licensed mental health counselors.

Sponsors: Senators Thibaudeau and Deccio.

Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

House Committee on Health Care

Background: The Department of Health is responsible for licensing of mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers. Under the licensed social work classifications are licensed advanced social worker and licensed independent clinical social worker. The other licensed categories are: licensed mental health counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist. All of these categories include education, examination, and supervised experience requirements. Under the experience requirements for the social worker, and marriage and family therapists categories, a set minimum number of hours are required to fulfill the experience requirements under the supervision of a specifically qualified professional or "an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner." Mental health counselors also have a specific supervised experience requirement, however, no allowance is made for mental health counselors to gain supervised experience through supervision by "an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner."

Summary: Licensed mental health counselors must complete a minimum of thirty-six months full-time counseling or three thousand hours of postgraduate mental health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental health counselor or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	41	0
House	98	0

Effective: June 7, 2006