

**HB 1993-S - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Revises credentialing standards for counselors.

Directs the department of licensing to convene a work group to develop recommendations regarding the need to regulate those individuals currently registered with the department of health as counselors and whose practice does not meet the definition of "therapeutic counseling" or a specified exemption to the definition. The work group shall consist of a broad representation of registered counselors that do not practice therapeutic counseling as defined in RCW 18.19.020, such as life coaches and spiritual counselors, the clients of such counselors, and representatives of licensed mental health practitioners as defined in RCW 18.19.020, including members of the mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee established under RCW 18.225.060. The work group shall consider the harm to the public if the individuals are not regulated and the benefit to the public that the regulation would provide, and alternatives to state regulation. The department of licensing shall submit the recommendations of the work group to the legislature by November 15, 2007.