

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1514

As of March 11, 2009

Title: An act relating to adding and deleting counseling professions subject to the authority of the secretary of health under the uniform disciplinary act.

Brief Description: Regarding counseling professions subject to the authority of the secretary of health.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Hinkle, Cody and Morrell; by request of Department of Health).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/09/09, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Edith Rice (786-7444)

Background: In 2008 legislation was passed dealing with the practice of counseling. The legislation eliminated the credential of registered counselor as of July 1, 2010, and created eight new credentials:

- Agency Affiliated Counselors (authorized to provide counseling services on behalf of a state agency);
- Certified Advisors (authorized to engage in private practice counseling);
- Certified Counselors (authorized to engage in private practice counseling); and
- the following associate and trainee credentials for persons who are working toward achieving educational and/or experiential requirements for full credentialing:
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate;
 - Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate;
 - Licensed Social Work Associate –Advanced;
 - Licensed Social Work Associate –Independent Clinical; and
 - Chemical Dependency Professional Trainee.

The 2008 legislation did not, however, update the section of the Uniform Disciplinary Act that lists the professions over which the Secretary of Health has disciplinary authority.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: The following professions are added to the section of the Uniform Disciplinary Act that lists the professions over which the Secretary of Health has disciplinary authority:

- Agency Affiliated Counselors;
- Certified Advisors;
- Certified Counselors;
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate;
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate;
- Licensed Social Work Associate –Advanced;
- Licensed Social Work Associate –Independent Clinical; and
- Chemical Dependency Professional Trainee.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed, except section 2, relating to the exclusion of registered counselors, which takes effect July 1, 2010.