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**HOUSE BILL 1063**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Harris, Cody, Bateman, Kloba, Ortiz-Self, Leavitt, Slatter, Tharinger, Callan, Riccelli, Macri, Rule, Davis, and Pollet

Prefiled 12/31/20. Read first time 01/11/21. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing additional renewals for behavioral  
2 health professional trainee and associate credentials; amending RCW  
3 18.205.095 and 18.225.145; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.205.095 and 2019 c 444 s 6 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The secretary shall issue a trainee certificate to any  
8 applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that  
9 he or she is working toward the education and experience requirements  
10 in RCW 18.205.090.

11 (2) A trainee certified under this section shall submit to the  
12 secretary for approval a declaration, in accordance with rules  
13 adopted by the department, that he or she is enrolled in an approved  
14 education program and actively pursuing the experience requirements  
15 in RCW 18.205.090. This declaration must be updated with the  
16 trainee's annual renewal.

17 (3) A trainee certified under this section may practice only  
18 under the supervision of a certified substance use disorder  
19 professional. The first (~~fifty~~) 50 hours of any face-to-face client  
20 contact must be under direct observation. All remaining experience

1 must be under supervision in accordance with rules adopted by the  
2 department.

3 (4) A certified substance use disorder professional trainee  
4 provides substance use disorder assessments, counseling, and case  
5 management with a state regulated agency and can provide clinical  
6 services to patients consistent with his or her education, training,  
7 and experience as approved by his or her supervisor.

8 (5) A trainee certification may only be renewed four times,  
9 unless the secretary finds that a waiver to allow additional renewals  
10 is justified due to barriers to testing or training resulting from a  
11 governor-declared emergency.

12 (6) Applicants are subject to denial of a certificate or issuance  
13 of a conditional certificate for the reasons set forth in chapter  
14 18.130 RCW.

15 (7) (~~As of July 28, 2019, a~~) A person certified under this  
16 chapter holding the title of chemical dependency professional trainee  
17 is considered to hold the title of substance use disorder  
18 professional trainee until such time as the person's present  
19 certification expires or is renewed.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.225.145 and 2013 c 73 s 4 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) The secretary shall issue an associate license to any  
23 applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that  
24 the applicant meets the following requirements for the applicant's  
25 practice area and submits a declaration that the applicant is working  
26 toward full licensure in that category:

27 (a) Licensed social worker associate—advanced or licensed social  
28 worker associate—~~independent clinical~~: Graduation from a master's  
29 degree or doctoral degree educational program in social work  
30 accredited by the council on social work education and approved by  
31 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards.

32 (b) Licensed mental health counselor associate: Graduation from a  
33 master's degree or doctoral degree educational program in mental  
34 health counseling or a related discipline from a college or  
35 university approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized  
36 standards.

37 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist associate: Graduation  
38 from a master's degree or doctoral degree educational program in  
39 marriage and family therapy or graduation from an educational program

1 in an allied field equivalent to a master's degree or doctoral degree  
2 in marriage and family therapy approved by the secretary based upon  
3 nationally recognized standards.

4 (2) Associates may not provide independent social work, mental  
5 health counseling, or marriage and family therapy for a fee, monetary  
6 or otherwise. Associates must work under the supervision of an  
7 approved supervisor.

8 (3) Associates shall provide each client or patient, during the  
9 first professional contact, with a disclosure form according to RCW  
10 18.225.100, disclosing that he or she is an associate under the  
11 supervision of an approved supervisor.

12 (4) The department shall adopt by rule what constitutes adequate  
13 proof of compliance with the requirements of this section.

14 (5) Applicants are subject to the denial of a license or issuance  
15 of a conditional license for the reasons set forth in chapter 18.130  
16 RCW.

17 (6) ~~((A))~~ (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, an  
18 associate license may be renewed no more than six times, provided  
19 that the applicant for renewal has successfully completed eighteen  
20 hours of continuing education in the preceding year. Beginning with  
21 the second renewal, at least six of the continuing education hours in  
22 the preceding two years must be in professional ethics.

23 (b) If the secretary finds that a waiver to allow additional  
24 renewals is justified due to barriers to testing or training  
25 resulting from a governor-declared emergency, additional renewals may  
26 be approved.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate  
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
29 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
30 effect immediately.

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