

HOUSE BILL 1234

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Simmons and Rule

Prefiled 01/09/25. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the mental health counselors, marriage and
2 family therapists, and social workers advisory committee; and
3 amending RCW 18.225.060.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.225.060 and 2001 c 251 s 6 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The Washington state mental health counselors, marriage and
8 family therapists, and social workers advisory committee is
9 established.

10 (1) The committee shall be comprised of nine members(~~(-)~~) as
11 follows:

12 (a) Two members (~~(shall)~~) must be licensed mental health
13 counselors(~~(-)~~);

14 (b) Two members (~~(shall)~~) must be licensed marriage and family
15 therapists(~~(-)~~);

16 (c) One member (~~(shall)~~) must be a licensed independent clinical
17 social worker(~~(, and one)~~);

18 (d) One member (~~(shall)~~) must be either a licensed advanced
19 social worker(~~(-)~~) or a licensed independent clinical social worker;
20 and

1 (e) Three members must be consumers and represent the public at
2 large and may not be licensed mental health care providers.

3 (2) Three members shall be appointed for a term of one year,
4 three members shall be appointed for a term of two years, and three
5 members shall be appointed for a term of three years. Subsequent
6 members shall be appointed for terms of three years. A person must
7 not serve as a member for more than two consecutive terms.

8 (3) (a) Each member must be a resident of the state of Washington.

9 (b) Each member must not hold (~~(a)~~) a governing office or board
10 position in a professional association for mental health, social
11 work, or marriage and family therapy and must not be employed by the
12 state of Washington.

13 (c) Each professional member must have been actively engaged as a
14 mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, or social
15 worker for five years immediately preceding appointment.

16 (d) The consumer members must represent the general public and be
17 unaffiliated directly or indirectly with the professions licensed
18 under this chapter.

19 (4) The secretary shall appoint the committee members.

20 (5) Committee members are immune from suit in an action, civil or
21 criminal, based on the department's disciplinary proceedings or other
22 official acts performed in good faith.

23 (6) Committee members shall be compensated in accordance with RCW
24 43.03.240, including travel expenses in carrying out his or her
25 authorized duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

26 (7) The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair.

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