

ANALYSIS OF HOUSE BILL 2498

Recognizing a title for recreational therapists.

SPONSORS: Representatives Dyer.

BACKGROUND: Currently, persons practicing recreation therapy are not regulated as health professionals in the state. Recreation therapy refers to the prescribed recreational and therapeutic activities including counseling, as a treatment intervention to improve functioning of persons with physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and/or social disabilities. The primary purpose of recreation therapy is to restore or rehabilitate persons in order to improve functioning and independence as well as reduce or eliminate the effects of illness or disability.

The Omnibus Credentialing Counselors Act requires the registration in the Department of Health of persons employing therapeutic techniques, techniques, and techniques to assist individuals in the amelioration of adjustment, emotional, behavioral, and achievement sensitivity and others, and to develop potential. This also encompasses the registration of other therapists, and the certification of other mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists.

SUMMARY: Persons practicing recreation therapy are required to register as counselors under state law. Applicants for registration as recreation therapists employing recreation therapy as a modality of practice of recreation therapy shall not be constrained by the necessity of counseling.

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