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**SENATE BILL 5449**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Slatter, Nobles, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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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