# Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research



# **Health Care & Wellness Committee**

## HB 1311

**Brief Description:** Authorizing the issuance of substance use disorder professional certifications to persons participating in apprenticeship programs.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Bronoske, Ryu, Simmons, Leavitt, Sells, Berry, Cody, Ortiz-Self, Chopp, Davis, Bateman, Lovick, Callan, Pollet, Macri and Peterson.

### **Brief Summary of Bill**

• Allows for persons participating in authorized apprenticeship programs to qualify for substance use disorder professional certification.

**Hearing Date: 2/1/21** 

**Staff:** Theiline Cramer (786-7291) and Jim Morishima (786-7191).

## **Background:**

#### A Substance Use Disorder Professional.

A substance use disorder professional is a person certified in substance use disorder counseling that assists others with substance use disorder in their recovery.

In order for the Secretary of Health to issue a substance use disorder professional certificate, an applicant:

- must complete an approved educational program or complete alternate training that meets established criteria;
- must successfully complete an approved examination, based on core competencies of substance use disorder counseling; and
- must successfully complete the experience requirements, which vary depending upon the

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education level of the applicant.

#### A Substance Use Disorder Professional Trainee.

A substance use disorder professional trainee (SUDPT) certification allows applicants to work towards the education and experience requirements for certification as a substance use disorder professional. An SUDPT provides substance use disorder assessments, counseling, clinical services, and case management to patients consistent with the trainee's training under a state regulated agency and approved supervision.

In order for the Secretary of Health to issue an SUPDT certificate, an applicant:

- must submit a declaration that the applicant is enrolled in an approved education program
  and actively pursuing all other relevant experience requirements. This declaration must be
  updated with the trainee's annual renewal;
- must practice only under the supervision of a certified substance use disorder professional.
   The first 50 hours of any face-to-face client contact must be under direct observation and all remaining experience must be under supervision in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Health; and
- may only renew a trainee certification four times.

#### **Summary of Bill:**

In addition to participation in an approved education program, an applicant for a substance use disorder professional certification or a substance use disorder professional trainee certification may also participate in an approved apprenticeship program. The Department of Health may adopt any rules necessary to implement this alternative.

**Appropriation:** None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.