
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1724

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Bateman, Macri, Taylor, Berry, Tharinger, Slatter, Callan, Leavitt, Reed, and Shavers)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the trained behavioral health
2 workforce; amending RCW 18.83.170, 18.205.140, 18.225.090, and
3 18.225.140; adding a new section to chapter 28C.18 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 18.130 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.225
5 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.83.170 and 2019 c 351 s 1 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Upon compliance with administrative procedures,
10 administrative requirements, and fees determined under RCW 43.70.250
11 and 43.70.280, the board may grant a license, without oral
12 examination, to any applicant who has not previously failed any
13 examination held by the board of psychology of the state of
14 Washington and furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the
15 applicant:

16 (a) Holds a doctoral degree with primary emphasis on psychology
17 from an accredited college or university; and

18 (b) (i) Is licensed or certified to practice psychology in another
19 state or country in which the requirements for such licensing or
20 certification are, in the judgment of the board, essentially
21 equivalent to those required by this chapter and the rules and

1 regulations of the board. Such individuals must have been licensed or
2 certified in another state for a period of at least two years; or

3 (ii) Is a diplomate in good standing of the American Board of
4 Examiners in Professional Psychology; or

5 (iii) Is a member of a professional organization and holds a
6 certificate deemed by the board to meet standards equivalent to this
7 chapter.

8 (2) (a) (i) The department shall establish a reciprocity program
9 for applicants for licensure as a psychologist in Washington.

10 (ii) The reciprocity program applies to applicants for a license
11 as a psychologist who:

12 (A) Hold or have held within the past twelve months a credential
13 in good standing from another state or territory of the United States
14 which has a scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or
15 greater than the scope of practice for licensed psychologists as
16 established under this chapter; and

17 (B) Have no disciplinary record or disqualifying criminal
18 history.

19 (b) The department shall issue a probationary license to an
20 applicant who meets the requirements of (a) (ii) of this subsection.
21 The department must determine what deficiencies, if any, exist
22 between the education and experience requirements of the other
23 state's credential and, after consideration of the experience and
24 capabilities of the applicant, determine whether it is appropriate to
25 require the applicant to complete additional education or experience
26 requirements to maintain the probationary license and, within a
27 reasonable time period, transition to a full license. (~~(A person who~~
28 ~~holds a probationary license may only practice as a psychologist in a~~
29 ~~licensed or certified service provider, as defined in RCW~~
30 ~~71.24.025.)) The department may place a reasonable time limit on a
31 probationary license and may, if appropriate, require the applicant
32 to pass a jurisprudential examination.~~

33 (c) The department must maintain and publish a list of
34 credentials in other states and territories that the department has
35 determined to have a scope of practice that is substantially
36 equivalent to or greater than the scope of practice for licensed
37 psychologists as established under this chapter. The department shall
38 prioritize identifying and publishing the department's determination
39 for the five states or territories that have historically had the
40 most applicants for reciprocity under subsection (1) of this section

1 with a scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or
2 greater than the scope of practice for licensed psychologists as
3 established under this chapter.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.205.140 and 2019 c 351 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) An applicant holding a credential in another state may be
7 certified to practice in this state without examination if the
8 secretary determines that the other state's credentialing standards
9 are substantially equivalent to the standards in this state.

10 (2)(a)(i) The department shall establish a reciprocity program
11 for applicants for certification as a ~~((chemical-dependency))~~
12 substance use disorder professional in Washington.

13 (ii) The reciprocity program applies to applicants for
14 certification as a ~~((chemical-dependency))~~ substance use disorder
15 professional who:

16 (A) Hold or have held within the past twelve months a credential
17 in good standing from another state or territory of the United States
18 which has a scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or
19 greater than the scope of practice for certified ~~((chemical-~~
20 ~~dependency))~~ substance use disorder professionals as established
21 under this chapter; and

22 (B) Have no disciplinary record or disqualifying criminal
23 history.

24 (b) The department shall issue a probationary certificate to an
25 applicant who meets the requirements of (a)(ii) of this subsection.
26 The department must determine what deficiencies, if any, exist
27 between the education and experience requirements of the other
28 state's credential and, after consideration of the experience and
29 capabilities of the applicant, determine whether it is appropriate to
30 require the applicant to complete additional education or experience
31 requirements to maintain the probationary certificate and, within a
32 reasonable time period, transition to a full certificate. ~~((A person
33 who holds a probationary certificate may only practice as a chemical
34 dependency professional in a licensed or certified service provider,
35 as defined in RCW 71.24.025.))~~ The department may place a reasonable
36 time limit on a probationary certificate and may, if appropriate,
37 require the applicant to pass a jurisprudential examination.

38 (c) The department must maintain and publish a list of
39 credentials in other states and territories that the department has

1 determined to have a scope of practice that is substantially
2 equivalent to or greater than the scope of practice for certified
3 (~~chemical dependency~~) substance use disorder professionals as
4 established under this chapter. The department shall prioritize
5 identifying and publishing the department's determination for the
6 five states or territories that have historically had the most
7 applicants for reciprocity under subsection (1) of this section with
8 a scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or greater
9 than the scope of practice for certified (~~chemical dependency~~)
10 substance use disorder professionals as established under this
11 chapter.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.225.090 and 2021 c 21 s 1 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The secretary shall issue a license to any applicant who
15 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that the applicant
16 meets the following education and experience requirements for the
17 applicant's practice area.

18 (a) Licensed social work classifications:

19 (i) Licensed advanced social worker:

20 (A) Graduation from a master's (~~or doctorate~~) social work
21 educational program accredited by the council on social work
22 education or a social work doctorate program at a university
23 accredited by a recognized accrediting organization, and approved by
24 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

25 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

26 (C) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.

27 The supervised experience requirement consists of a minimum of
28 (~~three thousand two hundred~~) 3,000 hours with supervision by an
29 approved supervisor who has been licensed for at least two years. Of
30 those supervised hours:

31 (I) At least (~~ninety~~) 90 hours must include direct supervision
32 as specified in this subsection by a licensed independent clinical
33 social worker, a licensed advanced social worker, or an equally
34 qualified licensed mental health professional. Of those hours of
35 directly supervised experience (~~÷~~

36 ~~(1) At least fifty hours must include supervision by a licensed~~
37 ~~advanced social worker or licensed independent clinical social~~
38 ~~worker; the other forty hours may be supervised by an equally~~
39 ~~qualified licensed mental health practitioner; and~~

1 ~~(2) At~~) at least (~~(forty)~~) 40 hours must be in one-to-one
2 supervision and fifty hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group
3 supervision; and

4 (II) (~~(Eight hundred)~~) 800 hours must be in direct client
5 contact; and

6 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
7 (~~(thirty-six)~~) 36 hours, with six in professional ethics.

8 (ii) Licensed independent clinical social worker:

9 (A) Graduation from a master's (~~(or doctorate)~~) level social work
10 educational program accredited by the council on social work
11 education or a social work doctorate program at a university
12 accredited by a recognized accrediting organization, and approved by
13 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

14 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

15 (C) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.
16 The supervised experience requirement consists of a minimum of (~~(four~~
17 ~~thousand)~~) 3,000 hours of experience, over a period of not less than
18 (~~(three)~~) two years, with supervision by an approved supervisor who
19 has been licensed for at least two years and, as specified in this
20 subsection, may be either a licensed independent clinical social
21 worker who has had at least one year of experience in supervising the
22 clinical social work of others or an equally qualified licensed
23 mental health practitioner. Of those supervised hours:

24 (I) At least (~~(one thousand)~~) 1,000 hours must be direct client
25 contact; and

26 (II) Hours of direct supervision must include:

27 (1) At least (~~(one hundred thirty)~~) 100 hours by a licensed
28 mental health practitioner;

29 (2) At least (~~(seventy)~~) 70 hours of supervision with a licensed
30 independent clinical social worker meeting the qualifications under
31 this subsection (1)(a)(ii)(C); the (~~(other sixty)~~) remaining hours
32 may be supervised by an equally qualified licensed mental health
33 practitioner; and

34 (3) At least (~~(sixty)~~) 60 hours must be in one-to-one supervision
35 and (~~(seventy)~~) the remaining hours may be in one-to-one supervision
36 or group supervision; and

37 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
38 (~~(thirty-six)~~) 36 hours, with six in professional ethics.

39 (b) Licensed mental health counselor:

1 (i) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational
2 program in mental health counseling or a related discipline from a
3 college or university approved by the secretary based upon nationally
4 recognized standards;

5 (ii) Successful completion of an approved examination;

6 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience
7 requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of
8 (~~(thirty-six)~~) 36 months full-time counseling or (~~(three-thousand)~~)
9 3,000 hours of postgraduate mental health counseling under the
10 supervision of a qualified licensed mental health counselor or
11 equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner, in an approved
12 setting. The three thousand hours of required experience includes a
13 minimum of (~~(one-hundred)~~) 100 hours spent in immediate supervision
14 with the qualified licensed mental health counselor, and includes a
15 minimum of (~~(one-thousand-two-hundred)~~) 1,200 hours of direct
16 counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups; and

17 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements
18 of (~~(thirty-six)~~) 36 hours, with six in professional ethics.

19 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist:

20 (i) Graduation from a master's degree or doctoral degree
21 educational program in marriage and family therapy or graduation from
22 an educational program in an allied field equivalent to a master's
23 degree or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy approved by
24 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

25 (ii) Successful passage of an approved examination;

26 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience
27 requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of
28 (~~(two-calendar-years-of-full-time)~~) 3,000 hours of marriage and
29 family therapy. Of the total supervision, (~~(one-hundred)~~) 100 hours
30 must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist with at least
31 five years' clinical experience; the other (~~(one-hundred)~~) 100 hours
32 may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.
33 Total experience requirements include:

34 (A) (~~(A minimum of three thousand hours of experience, one~~
35 ~~thousand)~~) 1,000 hours of (~~(which must be)~~) direct client contact; at
36 least (~~(five-hundred)~~) 500 hours must be gained in diagnosing and
37 treating couples and families; plus

38 (B) At least (~~(two-hundred)~~) 200 hours of qualified supervision
39 with a supervisor. At least (~~(one-hundred)~~) 100 of the (~~(two~~

1 ~~hundred~~) 200 hours must be one-on-one supervision, and the remaining
2 hours may be in one-on-one or group supervision.

3 Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by
4 the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy
5 education of the American association for marriage and family therapy
6 may be credited with (~~five hundred~~) 500 hours of direct client
7 contact and (~~one hundred~~) 100 hours of formal meetings with an
8 approved supervisor; and

9 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements
10 of (~~thirty-six~~) 36 hours, with six in professional ethics.

11 (2) The department shall establish by rule what constitutes
12 adequate proof of meeting the criteria. Only rules in effect on the
13 date of submission of a completed application of an associate for her
14 or his license shall apply. If the rules change after a completed
15 application is submitted but before a license is issued, the new
16 rules shall not be reason to deny the application.

17 (3) In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for
18 denial of a license or issuance of a conditional license under
19 chapter 18.130 RCW.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.225.140 and 2019 c 351 s 3 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) An applicant holding a credential in another state may be
23 licensed to practice in this state without examination if the
24 secretary determines that the other state's credentialing standards
25 are substantially equivalent to the licensing standards in this
26 state.

27 (2)(a)(i) The department shall establish a reciprocity program
28 for applicants for licensure as an advanced social worker, an
29 independent clinical social worker, a mental health counselor, or a
30 marriage and family therapist in Washington.

31 (ii) The reciprocity program applies to applicants for a license
32 as an advanced social worker, an independent clinical social worker,
33 a mental health counselor, or a marriage and family therapist who:

34 (A) Hold or have held within the past (~~twelve~~) 12 months a
35 credential in good standing from another state or territory of the
36 United States which has a scope of practice that is substantially
37 equivalent to or greater than the scope of practice for the
38 corresponding license as established under this chapter; and

1 (B) Have no disciplinary record or disqualifying criminal
2 history.

3 (b) The department shall issue a probationary license to an
4 applicant who meets the requirements of (a)(ii) of this subsection.
5 The department must determine what deficiencies, if any, exist
6 between the education and experience requirements of the other
7 state's credential and, after consideration of the experience and
8 capabilities of the applicant, determine whether it is appropriate to
9 require the applicant to complete additional education or experience
10 requirements to maintain the probationary license and, within a
11 reasonable time period, transition to a full license. (~~A person who~~
12 ~~holds a probationary license may only practice in the relevant~~
13 ~~profession in a licensed or certified service provider, as defined in~~
14 ~~RCW 71.24.025.~~) The department may place a reasonable time limit on
15 a probationary license and may, if appropriate, require the applicant
16 to pass a jurisprudential examination.

17 (c) The department must maintain and publish a list of
18 credentials in other states and territories that the department has
19 determined to have a scope of practice that is substantially
20 equivalent to or greater than the scope of practice for licensed
21 advanced social workers, independent clinical social workers, mental
22 health counselors, or marriage and family therapists as established
23 under this chapter. The department shall prioritize identifying and
24 publishing the department's determination for the five states or
25 territories that have historically had the most applicants for
26 reciprocity under subsection (1) of this section with a scope of
27 practice that is substantially equivalent to or greater than the
28 scope of practice for licensed advanced social workers, independent
29 clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and marriage and
30 family therapists under this chapter.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) By December 1, 2023, the board shall examine licensure
34 requirements for the following professions and make recommendations
35 to the legislature and relevant agencies, boards, and commissions for
36 changes to statutes and rules that would remove barriers to entering
37 and remaining in the health care workforce:

38 (a) Advanced social workers and independent clinical social
39 workers licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;

1 (b) Marriage and family therapists licensed under chapter 18.225
2 RCW;

3 (c) Mental health counselors licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;

4 (d) Substance use disorder professionals certified under chapter
5 18.205 RCW; and

6 (e) Psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW.

7 (2) The board may provide some or all of its recommendations
8 before December 1, 2023.

9 (3) The board may contract with a private entity or third-party
10 consultant to assist the board in developing its recommendations.

11 (4) The licensure requirements to be examined by the board shall
12 include examinations, continuing education requirements,
13 administrative requirements for license application and renewal,
14 English language proficiency requirements, and supervised experience
15 requirements, including supervisor requirements and costs associated
16 with completing supervised experience requirements.

17 (5) When making its recommendations, the board shall at a minimum
18 consider the following:

19 (a) The availability of peer-reviewed research and other
20 evidence, including requirements in other states, indicating the
21 necessity of specific licensure requirements for ensuring that
22 behavioral health professionals are prepared to practice with
23 reasonable skill and safety;

24 (b) Changes that would facilitate licensure of qualified, out-of-
25 state and international applicants to promote reciprocity, including
26 the adoption of applicable interstate compacts;

27 (c) Changes that would promote greater consistency across
28 licensure requirements for professions licensed under chapter 18.225
29 RCW and allow for applicants' prior professional experience within
30 relevant fields to be counted towards supervised experience
31 requirements established under chapter 18.225 RCW, including the
32 extent to which an applicant may use prior professional experience
33 gained before graduation from a master's or doctoral level
34 educational program to satisfy the applicant's supervised experience
35 requirement;

36 (d) Technical assistance programs, such as navigators or
37 dedicated customer service lines, to facilitate the completion of
38 licensing applications;

1 (e) In consultation with the examining board of psychology and a
2 statewide organization representing licensed psychologists, the
3 creation of an associate-level license for psychologists;

4 (f) Whether agency affiliated counselors should be allowed to
5 practice in federally qualified health centers; and

6 (g) Any rules that pose excessive administrative requirements for
7 application or renewal or that place a disproportionate burden on
8 applicants from disadvantaged communities.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.130
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) By July 1, 2024, all disciplining authorities that receive
12 recommendations from the workforce training and education
13 coordinating board pursuant to section 5 of this act must adopt rules
14 to implement the recommendations.

15 (2) Pursuant to RCW 34.05.350, the legislature finds that the
16 rules adopted under this section are necessary for the preservation
17 of the public health, safety, or general welfare and observing the
18 time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption
19 of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest. The
20 disciplining authorities shall, therefore, adopt the rules required
21 under this section as emergency rules.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 18.225
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
25 this specific purpose, by October 1, 2023, the department shall
26 develop a program to facilitate placement of associates with clinical
27 supervision services. The program must include a database of license
28 holders with the required qualifications who are willing to serve as
29 approved supervisors and agencies or facilities that offer
30 supervision services through their facilities to associates seeking
31 to satisfy supervised experience requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

32 (b) The department shall adopt, by rule, minimum qualifications
33 for supervisors or facilities to be included in the database and
34 minimum standards for adequate supervision of associates. The
35 department may not include in the database any person who, or
36 facility that, does not meet the minimum qualifications. The
37 department shall periodically audit the list to remove persons who,

1 or facilities that, no longer meet the minimum qualifications or fail
2 to meet the minimum standards.

3 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, the department shall establish a stipend program to
5 defray the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by associates completing
6 supervised experience requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

7 (a) Out-of-pocket expenses eligible for defrayment under this
8 section include costs incurred in order to obtain supervised
9 experience, such as fees or charges imposed by the individual or
10 entity providing supervision, and any other expenses deemed
11 appropriate by the department.

12 (b) Associates participating in the stipend program established
13 in this section shall document their out-of-pocket expenses in a
14 manner specified by the department.

15 (c) When adopting the stipend program, the department shall
16 consider defraying out-of-pocket expenses associated with unpaid
17 internships that are part of an applicant's educational program.

18 (d) The department shall establish the stipend program no later
19 than July 1, 2024.

20 (e) The department may adopt any rules necessary to implement
21 this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
24 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
25 effect immediately.

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