
HOUSE BILL 1724

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68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Bateman, Macri, Taylor, Berry, Tharinger, Slatter, Callan, Leavitt, Reed, and Shavers

Read first time 02/02/23. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

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) An applicant may use prior professional experience gained
12 before graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational
13 program to satisfy up to 50 percent of a supervised experience
14 requirement under this section if the professional experience was
15 gained under the supervision of an approved supervisor for the
16 applicant's practice area.

17 (3) The department shall establish by rule what constitutes
18 adequate proof of meeting the criteria. Only rules in effect on the
19 date of submission of a completed application of an associate for her
20 or his license shall apply. If the rules change after a completed
21 application is submitted but before a license is issued, the new
22 rules shall not be reason to deny the application.

23 (~~(3)~~) (4) In addition, applicants shall be subject to the
24 grounds for denial of a license or issuance of a conditional license
25 under chapter 18.130 RCW.

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

28 (1) An applicant holding a credential in another state may be
29 licensed to practice in this state without examination if the
30 secretary determines that the other state's credentialing standards
31 are substantially equivalent to the licensing standards in this
32 state.

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

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

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

6 (B) Have no disciplinary record or disqualifying criminal
7 history.

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

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

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

38 (1) By December 1, 2023, the board shall examine licensure
39 requirements for the following professions and make recommendations

1 to the legislature and relevant agencies, boards, and commissions for
2 changes to statutes and rules that would remove barriers to entering
3 and remaining in the health care workforce:

4 (a) Advanced social workers and independent clinical social
5 workers licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;

6 (b) Marriage and family therapists licensed under chapter 18.225
7 RCW;

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

9 (d) Substance use disorder professionals certified under chapter
10 18.205 RCW; and

11 (e) Psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW.

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

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

16 (4) The licensure requirements to be examined by the board shall
17 include examinations, continuing education requirements,
18 administrative requirements for license application and renewal,
19 English language proficiency requirements, and supervised experience
20 requirements, including supervisor requirements and costs associated
21 with completing supervised experience requirements.

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

24 (a) The availability of peer-reviewed research and other
25 evidence, including requirements in other states, indicating the
26 necessity of specific licensure requirements for ensuring that
27 behavioral health professionals are prepared to practice with
28 reasonable skill and safety;

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

32 (c) Changes that would promote greater consistency across
33 licensure requirements for professions licensed under chapter 18.225
34 RCW and allow for applicants' prior professional experience within
35 relevant fields to be counted towards supervised experience
36 requirements established under chapter 18.225 RCW; and

37 (d) Any rules that pose excessive administrative requirements for
38 application or renewal or that place a disproportionate burden on
39 applicants from disadvantaged communities.

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

3 By July 1, 2024, all disciplining authorities that receive
4 recommendations from the workforce training and education
5 coordinating board pursuant to section 5 of this act must adopt rules
6 to implement the recommendations.

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

9 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
10 specific purpose, by October 1, 2023, the department shall develop a
11 program to facilitate placement of associates with clinical
12 supervision services. The program must include a database of license
13 holders with the required qualifications who are willing to serve as
14 approved supervisors and agencies or facilities that offer
15 supervision services through their facilities to associates seeking
16 to satisfy supervised experience requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

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

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

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

29 (c) The department shall establish the stipend program no later
30 than July 1, 2024.

31 (d) The department may adopt any rules necessary to implement
32 this section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
35 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
36 effect immediately.

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