
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2247

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Bateman, Bronoske, Simmons, Duerr, Callan, Reed, Macri, Doglio, Leavitt, and Davis)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing behavioral health provider
2 shortages; amending RCW 18.19.020, 18.83.020, 18.83.050, 18.83.080,
3 18.83.105, 18.83.110, 18.83.115, 18.83.135, 18.83.170, 18.83.180,
4 18.83.190, 18.83.210, 18.225.145, and 18.225.180; reenacting and
5 amending RCW 18.205.095 and 18.225.090; adding a new section to
6 chapter 71.05 RCW; creating new sections; and providing effective
7 dates.

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

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.19.020 and 2023 c 425 s 13 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
12 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

13 (1) "Agency" means (a) an agency or facility operated, licensed,
14 or certified by the state of Washington; (b) a federally recognized
15 Indian tribe located within the state; ~~((c))~~ (c) a county; or (d) a
16 federally qualified health center.

17 (2) "Agency affiliated counselor" means a person registered,
18 certified, or licensed under this chapter who is employed by an
19 agency or is a student intern, as defined by the department.

1 (3) "Certified adviser" means a person certified under this
2 chapter who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent
3 authorized in RCW 18.19.200.

4 (4) "Certified agency affiliated counselor" means a person
5 certified under this chapter who is engaging in counseling to the
6 extent authorized in RCW 18.19.215.

7 (5) "Certified counselor" means a person certified under this
8 chapter who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent
9 authorized in RCW 18.19.200.

10 (6) "Client" means an individual who receives or participates in
11 counseling or group counseling.

12 (7) "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic techniques,
13 including but not limited to social work, mental health counseling,
14 marriage and family therapy, and hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer,
15 assist or attempt to assist an individual or individuals in the
16 amelioration or adjustment of mental, emotional, or behavioral
17 problems, and includes therapeutic techniques to achieve sensitivity
18 and awareness of self and others and the development of human
19 potential. For the purposes of this chapter, nothing may be construed
20 to imply that the practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily limited to
21 counseling.

22 (8) "Counselor" means an individual, practitioner, therapist, or
23 analyst who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a
24 fee, including for the purposes of this chapter, hypnotherapists.

25 (9) "Department" means the department of health.

26 (10) "Hypnotherapist" means a person registered under this
27 chapter who is practicing hypnosis as a modality.

28 (11) "Licensed agency affiliated counselor" means a person
29 licensed under this chapter who is engaged in counseling to the
30 extent authorized in RCW 18.19.215.

31 (12) "Mental health professional" has the same definition as
32 under RCW 71.05.020.

33 (13) "Private practice counseling" means the practice of
34 counseling by a certified counselor or certified adviser as specified
35 in RCW 18.19.200.

36 (14) "Psychotherapy" means the practice of counseling using
37 diagnosis of mental disorders according to the fourth edition of the
38 diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, published in
39 1994, and the development of treatment plans for counseling based on

1 diagnosis of mental disorders in accordance with established practice
2 standards.

3 (15) "Registered agency affiliated counselor" means a person
4 registered under this chapter who is engaged in counseling to the
5 extent authorized in RCW 18.19.215. This includes juvenile probation
6 counselors who are employees of the juvenile court under RCW
7 13.04.035 and 13.04.040 and juvenile court employees providing
8 functional family therapy, aggression replacement training, or other
9 evidence-based programs approved by the department of children,
10 youth, and families. A student intern as defined by the department
11 may be a registered agency affiliated counselor.

12 (16) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the
13 secretary's designee.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.83.020 and 1986 c 27 s 1 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1) To safeguard the people of the state of Washington from the
17 dangers of unqualified and improper practice of psychology, it is
18 unlawful for any person to whom this chapter applies to represent
19 himself or herself to be a psychologist or a licensed psychological
20 associate without first obtaining a license as provided in this
21 chapter.

22 (2) A person represents himself or herself to be a psychologist
23 or a licensed psychological associate when the person adopts or uses
24 any title or any description of services which incorporates one or
25 more of the following terms: "psychology," "psychological,"
26 "psychologist," or any term of like import.

27 (3) A licensed psychological associate shall provide each client
28 or patient, during the first professional contact, with a disclosure
29 form disclosing that the licensed psychological associate is an
30 associate under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.83.050 and 2004 c 262 s 8 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The board shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to
34 carry out its functions.

35 (2) The board shall examine the qualifications of applicants for
36 licensing under this chapter, to determine which applicants are
37 eligible for licensing under this chapter and shall forward to the
38 secretary the names of applicants so eligible.

1 (3) The board shall administer examinations to qualified
2 applicants on at least an annual basis. The board shall determine the
3 subject matter and scope of the examination, except as provided in
4 RCW 18.83.170. The board may allow applicants to take the examination
5 upon the granting of their doctoral degree before completion of their
6 internship for supervised experience.

7 (4) The board shall keep a complete record of its own
8 proceedings, of the questions given in examinations, of the names and
9 qualifications of all applicants, and the names and addresses of all
10 licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates. The
11 examination paper of such applicant shall be kept on file for a
12 period of at least one year after examination.

13 (5) The board shall, by rule, adopt a code of ethics for
14 psychologists and licensed psychological associates which is designed
15 to protect the public interest.

16 (6) The board may require that persons licensed under this
17 chapter as psychologists or licensed psychological associates obtain
18 and maintain professional liability insurance in amounts determined
19 by the board to be practicable and reasonably available.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.83.080 and 1996 c 191 s 66 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 The board shall forward to the secretary the name of each
23 applicant entitled to a license under this chapter. The secretary
24 shall promptly issue to such applicant a license authorizing such
25 applicant to use the title "psychologist" ~~((→))~~ or "licensed
26 psychological associate." Each licensed psychologist or licensed
27 psychological associate shall keep his or her license displayed in a
28 conspicuous place in his or her principal place of business.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.83.105 and 1996 c 191 s 69 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) ~~The board ((may issue certificates of qualification with~~
32 ~~appropriate title to applicants who meet all the licensing~~
33 ~~requirements except the possession of the degree of Doctor of~~
34 ~~Philosophy or its equivalent in psychology from an accredited~~
35 ~~educational institution. These certificates of qualification certify~~
36 ~~that the holder has been examined by the board and is deemed~~
37 ~~competent to perform certain functions within the practice of~~
38 ~~psychology under the periodic direct supervision of a psychologist~~

1 ~~licensed by the board. Such functions will be specified on the~~
2 ~~certificate issued by the board. Such applicant shall comply with~~
3 ~~administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees~~
4 ~~determined under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. Upon petition by a~~
5 ~~holder the board of examiners may grant authority to function without~~
6 ~~immediate supervision.))~~ shall issue a licensed psychological
7 associate license to an applicant who:

8 (a) Is:

9 (i) Currently enrolled in a doctor of philosophy, doctor of
10 psychology program, or its equivalent in psychology at an accredited
11 educational institution; or

12 (ii) Participating in a postdoctoral residency, postdoctoral
13 fellowship, or another supervised postdoctoral experience;

14 (b) Has been deemed competent by the director of clinical
15 training or postdoctoral supervisor to practice psychology under the
16 supervision of a licensed supervisor subject to rules adopted by the
17 board; and

18 (c) Has complied with administrative procedures, administrative
19 requirements, and fees determined under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

20 (2) (a) A holder of a licensed psychological associate license may
21 only practice under the supervision of a licensed supervisor pursuant
22 to rules adopted by the board.

23 (b) An applicant for a licensed psychological associate license
24 under this section may practice without a license under the direct
25 supervision of a licensed supervisor for 120 days after the
26 department receives the applicant's completed application or the
27 applicant's license is issued or denied, whichever is sooner.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.83.110 and 2020 c 302 s 116 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 Confidential communications between a client and a psychologist
31 or licensed psychological associate shall be privileged against
32 compulsory disclosure to the same extent and subject to the same
33 conditions as confidential communications between attorney and
34 client, but this exception is subject to the limitations under RCW
35 71.05.217 (6) and (7).

36 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.83.115 and 1986 c 27 s 9 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) Psychologists and licensed psychological associates licensed
2 under this chapter shall provide clients at the commencement of any
3 program of treatment with accurate disclosure information concerning
4 their practice, in accordance with guidelines developed by the board,
5 which will inform clients of the purposes of and resources available
6 under this chapter, including the right of clients to refuse
7 treatment, the responsibility of clients for choosing the provider
8 and treatment modality which best suits their needs, and the extent
9 of confidentiality provided by this chapter. The disclosure
10 information provided by the psychologist or licensed psychological
11 associate, the receipt of which shall be acknowledged in writing by
12 the psychologist or licensed psychological associate and client,
13 shall include any relevant education and training, the therapeutic
14 orientation of the practice, the proposed course of treatment where
15 known, any financial requirements, and such other information as the
16 board may require by rule.

17 (2) In inpatient settings, the health facility shall provide
18 clients with the disclosure statement at the commencement of any
19 program of treatment, and shall post the statement in a conspicuous
20 location accessible to the client.

21 (3) The board shall provide for modification of the guidelines as
22 appropriate in cases where the client has been referred by the court,
23 a state agency, or other governmental body to a particular provider
24 for specified evaluation or treatment.

25 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.83.135 and 2000 c 93 s 7 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 In addition to the authority prescribed under RCW 18.130.050, the
28 board shall have the following authority:

29 (1) To maintain records of all activities, and to publish and
30 distribute to all psychologists and licensed psychological associates
31 at least once each year abstracts of significant activities of the
32 board;

33 (2) To obtain the written consent of the complaining client or
34 patient or their legal representative, or of any person who may be
35 affected by the complaint, in order to obtain information which
36 otherwise might be confidential or privileged; and

37 (3) To apply the provisions of the uniform disciplinary act,
38 chapter 18.130 RCW, to all persons licensed as psychologists or
39 licensed psychological associates under this chapter.

1 **Sec. 9.** RCW 18.83.170 and 2023 c 425 s 1 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) (a) Upon compliance with administrative procedures,
4 administrative requirements, and fees determined under RCW 43.70.250
5 and 43.70.280, the board may grant a license, without oral
6 examination, to any applicant who has not previously failed any
7 examination held by the board of psychology of the state of
8 Washington and furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the
9 applicant:

10 ~~((a))~~ (i) Holds a doctoral degree with primary emphasis on
11 psychology from an accredited college or university; and

12 ~~((b)(i))~~ (ii)(A) Is licensed or certified to practice
13 psychology in another state or country in which the requirements for
14 such licensing or certification are, in the judgment of the board,
15 essentially equivalent to those required by this chapter and the
16 rules and regulations of the board. Such individuals must have been
17 licensed or certified in another state for a period of at least two
18 years; or

19 ~~((ii))~~ (B) Is a diplomate in good standing of the American
20 Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology; or

21 ~~((iii))~~ (C) Is a member of a professional organization and
22 holds a certificate deemed by the board to meet standards equivalent
23 to this chapter.

24 (b) The board may adopt rules waiving any of the requirements of
25 this subsection (1) for an applicant who has continuously held a
26 license to practice psychology in good standing in another state,
27 territory, or country for a period of time that, in the judgment of
28 the board, renders the waived requirements duplicative or
29 unnecessary.

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

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

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

39 (B) Have no disciplinary record or disqualifying criminal
40 history.

1 (b) The department shall issue a probationary license to an
2 applicant who meets the requirements of (a)(ii)(B) of this
3 subsection. The department must determine what deficiencies, if any,
4 exist between the education and experience requirements of the other
5 state's credential and, after consideration of the experience and
6 capabilities of the applicant, determine whether it is appropriate to
7 require the applicant to complete additional education or experience
8 requirements to maintain the probationary license and, within a
9 reasonable time period, transition to a full license. The department
10 may place a reasonable time limit on a probationary license and may,
11 if appropriate, require the applicant to pass a jurisprudential
12 examination.

13 (c) The department must maintain and publish a list of
14 credentials in other states and territories that the department has
15 determined to have a scope of practice that is substantially
16 equivalent to or greater than the scope of practice for licensed
17 psychologists as established under this chapter. The department shall
18 prioritize identifying and publishing the department's determination
19 for the five states or territories that have historically had the
20 most applicants for reciprocity under subsection (1) of this section
21 with a scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or
22 greater than the scope of practice for licensed psychologists as
23 established under this chapter.

24 **Sec. 10.** RCW 18.83.180 and 1987 c 150 s 55 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 It shall be a gross misdemeanor and unlicensed practice for any
27 person to:

28 (1) Use in connection with his or her name any designation
29 tending to imply that he or she is a licensed psychologist or
30 licensed psychological associate unless duly licensed under or
31 specifically excluded from the provisions of this chapter;

32 (2) Practice as a licensed psychologist or licensed psychological
33 associate during the time his or her license issued under the
34 provisions of this chapter is suspended or revoked.

35 **Sec. 11.** RCW 18.83.190 and 1991 c 3 s 203 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 If any person represents himself or herself to be a psychologist
38 or licensed psychological associate, unless the person is exempt from

1 the provisions of this chapter, without possessing a valid license,
2 certificated qualification, or a temporary permit to do so, or if he
3 or she violates any of the provisions of this chapter, any
4 prosecuting attorney, the secretary, or any citizen of the same
5 county may maintain an action in the name of the state to enjoin such
6 person from representing himself or herself as a psychologist or
7 licensed psychological associate. The injunction shall not relieve
8 the person from criminal prosecution, but the remedy by injunction
9 shall be in addition to the liability of such offender to criminal
10 prosecution and to suspension or revocation of his or her license.

11 **Sec. 12.** RCW 18.83.210 and 1965 c 70 s 25 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting any
14 individual from offering counseling or guidance provided that such
15 individuals do not hold themselves forth as psychologists or licensed
16 psychological associates.

17 **Sec. 13.** RCW 18.205.095 and 2021 c 165 s 1 and 2021 c 57 s 1 are
18 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

19 (1) The secretary shall issue a trainee certificate to any
20 applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that
21 he or she is working toward the education and experience requirements
22 in RCW 18.205.090.

23 (2) A trainee certified under this section shall submit to the
24 secretary for approval a declaration, in accordance with rules
25 adopted by the department, which shall be updated with the trainee's
26 annual renewal, that he or she is actively pursuing the experience
27 requirements under RCW 18.205.090 and is enrolled in:

28 (a) An approved education program; or

29 (b) An apprenticeship program reviewed by the substance use
30 disorder certification advisory committee, approved by the secretary,
31 and registered and approved under chapter 49.04 RCW.

32 (3) A trainee certified under this section may practice only
33 under the supervision of a certified substance use disorder
34 professional. The first 50 hours of any face-to-face client contact
35 must be under direct observation. All remaining experience must be
36 under supervision in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

37 (4) A certified substance use disorder professional trainee
38 provides substance use disorder assessments, counseling, and case

1 management ((with a state regulated agency)) and can provide clinical
2 services to patients consistent with his or her education, training,
3 and experience as approved by his or her supervisor.

4 (5) (~~(A trainee certification may only be renewed four times,~~
5 ~~unless the secretary finds that a waiver to allow additional renewals~~
6 ~~is justified due to barriers to testing or training resulting from a~~
7 ~~governor-declared emergency.)) A person whose trainee certification
8 was not renewed due to the person exceeding the four-renewal limit in
9 place prior to the effective date of this section shall be treated as
10 if the person's certification expired. The secretary shall allow such
11 a person to return the person's trainee certification to active
12 status pursuant to standard rules and procedures in place for
13 returning an expired credential to active status.~~

14 (6) Applicants are subject to denial of a certificate or issuance
15 of a conditional certificate for the reasons set forth in chapter
16 18.130 RCW.

17 (7) A person certified under this chapter holding the title of
18 chemical dependency professional trainee is considered to hold the
19 title of substance use disorder professional trainee until such time
20 as the person's present certification expires or is renewed.

21 **Sec. 14.** RCW 18.225.090 and 2023 c 425 s 3 and 2023 c 58 s 16
22 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

23 (1) The secretary shall issue a license to any applicant who
24 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that the applicant
25 meets the following education and experience requirements for the
26 applicant's practice area.

27 (a) Licensed social work classifications:

28 (i) Licensed advanced social worker:

29 (A) Graduation from a master's social work educational program
30 accredited by the council on social work education or a social work
31 doctorate program at a university accredited by a recognized
32 accrediting organization, and approved by the secretary based upon
33 nationally recognized standards;

34 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

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

36 The supervised experience requirement consists of a minimum of 3,200
37 hours with supervision by an approved supervisor who has been
38 licensed for at least two years. Of those supervised hours:

1 (I) At least 90 hours must include direct supervision as
2 specified in this subsection by a licensed independent clinical
3 social worker, a licensed advanced social worker, or an equally
4 qualified licensed mental health professional. Of those hours of
5 directly supervised experience at least 40 hours must be in one-to-
6 one supervision and 50 hours may be in one-to-one supervision or
7 group supervision; and

8 (II) 800 hours must be in direct client contact; and

9 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements
10 (~~of 36 hours, with six~~) established in rule by the secretary,
11 including a minimum number of hours in professional ethics.

12 (ii) Licensed independent clinical social worker:

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

18 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

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

28 (I) At least 1,000 hours must be direct client contact; and

29 (II) Hours of direct supervision must include:

30 (1) At least 100 hours by a licensed mental health practitioner;

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

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

38 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements
39 (~~of 36 hours, with six~~) established in rule by the secretary,
40 including a minimum number of hours in professional ethics.

1 (b) Licensed mental health counselor:
2 (i) (A) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational
3 program in counseling that consists of at least 60 semester hours or
4 90 quarter hours, or includes at least 60 semester hours or 90
5 quarter hours of graduate coursework that includes the following
6 topic areas:
7 (I) Mental health counseling orientation and ethical practice;
8 (II) Social and cultural diversity;
9 (III) Human growth and development;
10 (IV) Career development;
11 (V) Counseling and helping relationships;
12 (VI) Group counseling and group work;
13 (VII) Diagnosis and treatment;
14 (VIII) Assessment and testing; and
15 (IX) Research and program evaluation; or
16 (B) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational
17 program in a related discipline from a college or university approved
18 by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards. An
19 applicant who satisfies the educational requirements for licensure
20 under this subsection (1)(b)(i)(B) is not qualified to exercise the
21 privilege to practice under the counseling compact established in
22 chapter 18.17 RCW unless the master's or doctoral level educational
23 program in a related discipline consists of at least 60 semester
24 hours or 90 quarter hours, or includes at least 60 semester hours or
25 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework that includes the topic areas
26 specified in ~~((subsection (1)) (b) (i) (A) (I) through (IX) of this~~
27 ~~((section [(b) (i) (A) (I) through (IX) of this subsection]))~~
28 subsection;
29 (ii) Successful completion of an approved examination;
30 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience
31 requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of 36
32 months full-time counseling or 3,000 hours of postgraduate mental
33 health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed
34 mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health
35 practitioner, in an approved setting. The 3,000 hours of required
36 experience includes a minimum of 100 hours spent in immediate
37 supervision with the qualified licensed mental health counselor, and
38 includes a minimum of 1,200 hours of direct counseling with
39 individuals, couples, families, or groups; and

1 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements
2 (~~of 36 hours, with six~~) established in rule by the secretary,
3 including a minimum number of hours in professional ethics.

4 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist:

5 (i) Graduation from a master's degree or doctoral degree
6 educational program in marriage and family therapy or graduation from
7 an educational program in an allied field equivalent to a master's
8 degree or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy approved by
9 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

10 (ii) Successful passage of an approved examination;

11 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience
12 requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of
13 3,000 hours of marriage and family therapy. Of the total supervision,
14 100 hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist with
15 at least (~~five~~) two years' clinical experience; the other 100 hours
16 may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.
17 Total experience requirements include:

18 (A) 1,000 hours of direct client contact; at least 500 hours must
19 be gained in diagnosing and treating couples and families; plus

20 (B) At least 200 hours of qualified supervision with a
21 supervisor. At least 100 of the 200 hours must be one-on-one
22 supervision, and the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or group
23 supervision.

24 Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by
25 the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy
26 education of the American association for marriage and family therapy
27 may be credited with 500 hours of direct client contact and 100 hours
28 of formal meetings with an approved supervisor; and

29 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements
30 (~~of 36 hours, with six~~) established in rule by the secretary,
31 including a minimum number of hours in professional ethics.

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

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

1 **Sec. 15.** RCW 18.225.145 and 2021 c 57 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The secretary shall issue an associate license to any
4 applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that
5 the applicant meets the following requirements for the applicant's
6 practice area and submits a declaration that the applicant is working
7 toward full licensure in that category:

8 (a) Licensed social worker associate—advanced or licensed social
9 worker associate—~~independent clinical~~: Graduation from a master's
10 degree or doctoral degree educational program in social work
11 accredited by the council on social work education and approved by
12 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards.

13 (b) Licensed mental health counselor associate: Graduation from a
14 master's degree or doctoral degree educational program in mental
15 health counseling or a related discipline from a college or
16 university approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized
17 standards.

18 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist associate: Graduation
19 from a master's degree or doctoral degree educational program in
20 marriage and family therapy or graduation from an educational program
21 in an allied field equivalent to a master's degree or doctoral degree
22 in marriage and family therapy approved by the secretary based upon
23 nationally recognized standards.

24 (2) Associates may not provide independent social work, mental
25 health counseling, or marriage and family therapy for a fee, monetary
26 or otherwise. Associates must work under the supervision of an
27 approved supervisor. Beginning October 1, 2025, an applicant for an
28 associate license under this section may practice without a license
29 under the direct supervision of an approved supervisor for 120 days
30 after the department receives the applicant's completed application
31 or the applicant's license is issued or denied, whichever is sooner.

32 (3) Associates shall provide each client or patient, during the
33 first professional contact, with a disclosure form according to RCW
34 18.225.100, disclosing that he or she is an associate under the
35 supervision of an approved supervisor.

36 (4) The department shall adopt by rule what constitutes adequate
37 proof of compliance with the requirements of this section.

38 (5) Applicants are subject to the denial of a license or issuance
39 of a conditional license for the reasons set forth in chapter 18.130
40 RCW.

1 (6) (a) (~~Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, an~~) An
2 associate license may be renewed (~~no more than six times, provided~~
3 ~~that~~). Until October 1, 2025, the applicant for renewal ((has)) must
4 have successfully completed eighteen hours of continuing education in
5 the preceding year. After October 1, 2025, the applicant for renewal
6 must have successfully completed, in the preceding year, continuing
7 education requirements established in rule by the secretary.
8 Beginning with the second renewal, (~~at least six of~~) the continuing
9 education requirements established in rule by the secretary must
10 require the applicant to complete a minimum number of continuing
11 education hours in the preceding two years (~~must be~~) in
12 professional ethics.

13 (b) (~~If the secretary finds that a waiver to allow additional~~
14 ~~renewals is justified due to barriers to testing or training~~
15 ~~resulting from a governor-declared emergency, additional renewals may~~
16 ~~be approved.~~) A person whose associate license was not renewed due
17 to the person exceeding the six-renewal limit in place prior to the
18 effective date of this section shall be treated as if the person's
19 license expired. The secretary shall allow such a person to return
20 the person's associate license to active status pursuant to standard
21 rules and procedures in place for returning an expired credential to
22 active status.

23 **Sec. 16.** RCW 18.225.180 and 2023 c 425 s 7 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

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

33 (b) The department shall adopt, by rule, minimum qualifications
34 for supervisors or facilities to be included in the database and
35 minimum standards for adequate supervision of associates. The
36 department may not include in the database any person who, or
37 facility that, does not meet the minimum qualifications. The
38 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))~~ offset the costs of
6 providing supervision for associates completing supervised experience
7 requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

8 ~~((Out-of-pocket expenses eligible for defrayment under this~~
9 ~~section include costs incurred in order to obtain supervised~~
10 ~~experience, such as fees or charges imposed by the individual or~~
11 ~~entity providing supervision, and any other expenses deemed~~
12 ~~appropriate by the department.))~~ To be eligible for the stipend
13 program under this subsection (2), a supervisor must:

14 (i) Meet all requirements of a qualified supervisor in this
15 chapter and chapter 246-809 WAC; and

16 (ii) Be actively providing supervision to at least one associate
17 completing supervised experience requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

18 (b) ~~((Associates))~~ Supervisors participating in the stipend
19 program established in this section shall document their ~~((out-of-~~
20 ~~pocket))~~ expenses attributable to each supervised associate and time
21 spent supervising each associate under their supervision in a manner
22 specified by the department.

23 ~~((When adopting the stipend program, the department shall~~
24 ~~consider defraying out-of-pocket expenses associated with unpaid~~
25 ~~internships that are part of an applicant's educational program.))~~

26 (i) Supervisors receiving a stipend under this section are eligible
27 for up to \$2,000 per year per associate if the supervisor maintains
28 the supervisory relationship for the entire year and subject to the
29 availability of funds. If the supervisor does not provide supervision
30 for an entire year, the department shall prorate the stipend amount
31 accordingly.

32 (ii) If a participating supervisor's documented expenses
33 attributable to a supervised associate exceed the stipend the
34 supervisor receives under (c)(i) of this subsection for supervising
35 that associate, the participating supervisor may charge the associate
36 a fee to recoup the excess expenses attributable to that associate.
37 In no case may a fee charged to an individual associate under this
38 subsection (2)(c)(ii) exceed \$1,600. The supervisor shall report any
39 fees charged to the associate to the department.

1 (d) The department shall establish the stipend program no later
2 than July 1, ((2024)) 2025.

3 ((~~e~~)) (3) The department may adopt any rules necessary to
4 implement this section.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 For the purposes of this chapter, in addition to the definition
8 of the term as defined in RCW 71.05.020, "mental health professional"
9 includes a licensed psychological associate as described in chapter
10 18.83 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The health care authority shall ensure
12 that all services provided by associate licenses under chapters
13 18.225 and 18.83 RCW are included in the state medicaid program,
14 including filing any necessary state plan amendments by January 1,
15 2025.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** The examining board of psychology may
17 adopt any rules necessary to implement sections 2 through 12 of this
18 act. The secretary of health may adopt any rules necessary to
19 implement sections 1 and 13 through 16 of this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** (1) Section 1 of this act takes effect
21 January 1, 2028.

22 (2) Sections 2 through 12, 14, 16, and 17 of this act take effect
23 October 1, 2025.

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