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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2247

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/24.

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; providing effective dates;  
7 and providing an expiration date.

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 in  
11 consultation with the committee, including a minimum number of hours  
12 in professional ethics.

13 (ii) Licensed independent clinical social worker:

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

19 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

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

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

30 (II) Hours of direct supervision must include:

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

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

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

39 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements  
40 (~~of 36 hours, with six~~) established in rule by the secretary in

1 consultation with the committee, including a minimum number of hours  
2 in professional ethics.

3 (b) Licensed mental health counselor:

4 (i) (A) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational  
5 program in counseling that consists of at least 60 semester hours or  
6 90 quarter hours, or includes at least 60 semester hours or 90  
7 quarter hours of graduate coursework that includes the following  
8 topic areas:

9 (I) Mental health counseling orientation and ethical practice;

10 (II) Social and cultural diversity;

11 (III) Human growth and development;

12 (IV) Career development;

13 (V) Counseling and helping relationships;

14 (VI) Group counseling and group work;

15 (VII) Diagnosis and treatment;

16 (VIII) Assessment and testing; and

17 (IX) Research and program evaluation; or

18 (B) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational  
19 program in a related discipline from a college or university approved  
20 by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards. An  
21 applicant who satisfies the educational requirements for licensure  
22 under this subsection (1)(b)(i)(B) is not qualified to exercise the  
23 privilege to practice under the counseling compact established in  
24 chapter 18.17 RCW unless the master's or doctoral level educational  
25 program in a related discipline consists of at least 60 semester  
26 hours or 90 quarter hours, or includes at least 60 semester hours or  
27 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework that includes the topic areas  
28 specified in ~~((subsection (1)) (b) (i) (A) (I) through (IX) of this~~  
29 ~~((section [(b) (i) (A) (I) through (IX) of this subsection]))~~  
30 subsection;

31 (ii) Successful completion of an approved examination;

32 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience  
33 requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of 36  
34 months full-time counseling or 3,000 hours of postgraduate mental  
35 health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed  
36 mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health  
37 practitioner, in an approved setting. The 3,000 hours of required  
38 experience includes a minimum of 100 hours spent in immediate  
39 supervision with the qualified licensed mental health counselor, and

1 includes a minimum of 1,200 hours of direct counseling with  
2 individuals, couples, families, or groups; and

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

7 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist:

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

13 (ii) Successful passage of an approved examination;

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

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

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

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

32 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements  
33 (~~(of 36 hours, with six)~~) established in rule by the secretary in  
34 consultation with the committee, including a minimum number of hours  
35 in professional ethics.

36 (2) The department shall establish by rule what constitutes  
37 adequate proof of meeting the criteria. Only rules in effect on the  
38 date of submission of a completed application of an associate for her  
39 or his license shall apply. If the rules change after a completed

1 application is submitted but before a license is issued, the new  
2 rules shall not be reason to deny the application.

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

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

8 (1) The secretary shall issue an associate license to any  
9 applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that  
10 the applicant meets the following requirements for the applicant's  
11 practice area and submits a declaration that the applicant is working  
12 toward full licensure in that category:

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

18 (b) Licensed mental health counselor associate: Graduation from a  
19 master's degree or doctoral degree educational program in mental  
20 health counseling or a related discipline from a college or  
21 university approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized  
22 standards.

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

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

37 (3) Associates shall provide each client or patient, during the  
38 first professional contact, with a disclosure form according to RCW

1 18.225.100, disclosing that he or she is an associate under the  
2 supervision of an approved supervisor.

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

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

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

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

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

33 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for  
34 this specific purpose, by October 1, 2023, the department shall  
35 develop a program to facilitate placement of associates with clinical  
36 supervision services. The program must include a database of license  
37 holders with the required qualifications who are willing to serve as  
38 approved supervisors and agencies or facilities that offer

1 supervision services through their facilities to associates seeking  
2 to satisfy supervised experience requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

3 (b) The department shall adopt, by rule, minimum qualifications  
4 for supervisors or facilities to be included in the database and  
5 minimum standards for adequate supervision of associates. The  
6 department may not include in the database any person who, or  
7 facility that, does not meet the minimum qualifications. The  
8 department shall periodically audit the list to remove persons who,  
9 or facilities that, no longer meet the minimum qualifications or fail  
10 to meet the minimum standards.

11 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
12 specific purpose, the department shall establish a stipend program to  
13 ~~((defray the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by))~~ offset the costs  
14 incurred when providing supervision for associates completing  
15 supervised experience requirements under RCW 18.225.090.

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

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

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

26 (b) ~~((Associates))~~ Supervisors participating in the stipend  
27 program established in this section shall document their ~~((out-of-~~  
28 ~~pocket))~~ incurred expenses attributable to each supervised associate  
29 and time spent supervising each associate under their supervision in  
30 a manner specified by the department.

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

34 (i) Supervisors receiving a stipend under this section are eligible  
35 for up to \$2,000 per year per associate if the supervisor maintains  
36 the supervisory relationship for the entire year and subject to the  
37 availability of funds. If the supervisor does not provide supervision  
38 for an entire year, the department shall prorate the stipend amount  
39 accordingly.



1 (ii) If a participating supervisor's documented expenses  
2 attributable to a supervised associate exceed the stipend the  
3 supervisor receives under (c)(i) of this subsection for supervising  
4 that associate, the participating supervisor may charge the associate  
5 a fee to recoup the excess expenses attributable to that associate.  
6 In no case may a fee charged to an individual associate under this  
7 subsection (2)(c)(ii) exceed \$1,600 per year. The supervisor shall  
8 report any fees charged to the associate to the department.

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

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

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. A new section is added to chapter 71.05  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 For the purposes of this chapter, in addition to the definition  
16 of the term as defined in RCW 71.05.020, "mental health professional"  
17 includes a licensed psychological associate as described in chapter  
18 18.83 RCW.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 18. The health care authority shall ensure  
20 that all services provided by associate licenses under chapters  
21 18.225 and 18.83 RCW are included in the state medicaid program,  
22 including filing any necessary state plan amendments by January 1,  
23 2025.

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

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. (1) The secretary of health shall study  
29 and make recommendations on changing the disciplining authority for  
30 professions regulated under chapter 18.225 RCW from the secretary of  
31 health to separate boards or commissions for each profession.

32 (2) The secretary of health's findings and recommendations must,  
33 at a minimum, include the following:

34 (a) Whether the disciplining authority for each profession should  
35 be a board or a commission;

1 (b) The recommended membership of each board or commission, which  
2 must include:  
3 (i) A majority of members who are members of the regulated  
4 professions; and  
5 (ii) At least one public member;  
6 (c) An estimate of the fiscal impact of changing the disciplining  
7 authority for the professions; and  
8 (d) A transition plan for changing the disciplining authorities,  
9 including recommended statutory changes.  
10 (3) When formulating the findings and recommendations, the  
11 secretary of health must consult with organizations representing the  
12 professions regulated under chapter 18.225 RCW.  
13 (4) The secretary of health shall report the findings and  
14 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature no  
15 later than July 1, 2025.  
16 (5) This section expires August 1, 2025.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
18 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
19 provided by June 30, 2024, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
20 act is null and void.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** (1) Section 1 of this act takes effect  
22 January 1, 2028.  
23 (2) Sections 2 through 12, 14, 16, and 17 of this act take effect  
24 October 1, 2025.

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