

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1234

C 20 L 25

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee.

Sponsors: Representatives Simmons and Rule.

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness

Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

Background:

The Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) is comprised of nine members. The members include two licensed mental health counselors, two marriage and family therapists, one independent clinical social worker, one advanced social worker, and three consumers. The members of the Advisory Committee are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health (Secretary). Members of the Advisory Committee may not hold an office in a professional association for mental health, social work, or marriage and family therapy.

The Advisory Committee is charged with providing advice and assistance on licensing activities related to mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers, as requested by the Secretary. The responsibilities relate to rulemaking, case disposition guidelines related to unprofessional conduct, review of reports of unprofessional conduct or consumer complaints, consumer education, and continuing education and continuing competency programs.

Summary:

The one member of the Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) that must be an advanced social worker may be either an advanced social worker or an independent clinical social

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worker.

The prohibition on members of the Advisory Committee holding an office in a relevant professional association applies specifically to holding a governing office or board position.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 96 0

Senate 49 0

Effective: July 27, 2025