
HOUSE BILL 1729

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Macri, Jenkins, Ortiz-Self, and Cody

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a streamlined process to increase
2 the capacity of certain mental health providers to offer substance
3 use disorder treatment; amending RCW 18.205.090 and 18.205.020;
4 adding new sections to chapter 18.205 RCW; adding a new section to
5 chapter 18.83 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.225 RCW;
6 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.205
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The department shall develop training standards for the
11 certification of the following health care providers as chemical
12 dependency counselors:

13 (a) Psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW;

14 (b) Independent clinical social workers licensed under chapter
15 18.225 RCW;

16 (c) Marriage and family therapists licensed under chapter 18.225
17 RCW; and

18 (d) Mental health counselors licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

19 (2) The training standards must be designed with consideration of
20 the practices of the health professions listed in subsection (1) of

1 this section and consist of no more than thirty-five hours of
2 instruction in the following topics:

3 (a) Understanding addiction;

4 (b) Pharmacological action of alcohol and other drugs;

5 (c) Understanding addiction placement, continuing care, and
6 discharge criteria, including American society of addiction medicine
7 criteria;

8 (d) Treatment planning specific to substance abuse;

9 (e) Relapse prevention; and

10 (f) Confidentiality issues specific to substance use disorder
11 treatment.

12 (3) In developing the training standards, the department shall
13 consult with the examining board of psychology established in chapter
14 18.83 RCW, the Washington state mental health counselors, marriage
15 and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee
16 established in chapter 18.225 RCW, and educational institutions in
17 Washington state that train psychologists, marriage and family
18 therapists, mental health counselors, and independent clinical social
19 workers.

20 (4) The department shall approve educational programs that meet
21 the training standards.

22 (5) The department shall develop an examination to determine
23 competency in the training standards.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.205
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) Beginning July 1, 2020, subject to the availability of
27 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall
28 contract with an educational program to offer the training developed
29 under section 1 of this act. The contracted educational program shall
30 offer the training at a reduced cost to health care providers
31 licensed to practice a profession identified in section 1 of this
32 act. The training must be (a) available online on an ongoing basis
33 and (b) offered in person at least four times per calendar year.

34 (2) Beginning July 1, 2020, subject to the availability of
35 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall
36 contract with an entity to provide a telephonic consultation service
37 to assist health care providers who have been issued a chemical
38 dependency professional certification pursuant to RCW 18.205.090 with

1 the diagnosis and treatment of patients with co-occurring behavioral
2 health disorders.

3 (3) The department shall identify supervisors who are trained and
4 available to supervise persons seeking to meet the supervised
5 experience requirements established under RCW 18.205.090(1)(b)(iv).

6 (4) This section expires July 1, 2025.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.205.090 and 2001 c 251 s 30 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The secretary shall issue a certificate to any applicant who
10 demonstrates to the secretary's satisfaction that the following
11 requirements have been met:

12 (a) (i) Completion of an educational program approved by the
13 secretary or successful completion of alternate training that meets
14 established criteria;

15 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Successful completion of an approved examination,
16 based on core competencies of chemical dependency counseling; and

17 ~~((e))~~ (iii) Successful completion of an experience requirement
18 that establishes fewer hours of experience for applicants with higher
19 levels of relevant education. In meeting any experience requirement
20 established under this subsection, the secretary may not require more
21 than one thousand five hundred hours of experience in chemical
22 dependency counseling for applicants who are licensed under chapter
23 18.83 RCW or under chapter 18.79 RCW as advanced registered nurse
24 practitioners; or

25 (b) (i) The applicant holds an active license as:

26 (A) A psychologist under chapter 18.83 RCW;

27 (B) An independent clinical social worker under chapter 18.225
28 RCW;

29 (C) A marriage and family therapist under chapter 18.225 RCW; or

30 (D) A mental health counselor under chapter 18.225 RCW;

31 (ii) Submits proof of successful completion of a training program
32 that is approved by the department under section 1 of this act as
33 meeting the training standards;

34 (iii) Successfully completes an examination developed by the
35 department under section 1 of this act; and

36 (iv) Successfully completes an experience requirement of:

37 (A) Eighty hours of supervised experience for an applicant who
38 has held a license listed under (b)(i) of this subsection for less
39 than five years; or

1 (B) Forty hours of supervised experience for an applicant who has
2 held a license listed under (b) (i) of this subsection for five years
3 or more.

4 (2) The secretary shall establish by rule what constitutes
5 adequate proof of meeting the criteria.

6 (3) Applicants are subject to the grounds for denial of a
7 certificate or issuance of a conditional certificate under chapter
8 18.130 RCW.

9 (4) Certified chemical dependency professionals shall not be
10 required to be registered under chapter 18.19 RCW or licensed under
11 chapter 18.225 RCW.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.205.020 and 2008 c 135 s 15 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
15 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

16 (1) "Certification" means a voluntary process recognizing an
17 individual who qualifies by examination and meets established
18 educational prerequisites, and which protects the title of practice.

19 (2) "Certified chemical dependency professional" means an
20 individual certified in chemical dependency counseling, under this
21 chapter.

22 (3) "Certified chemical dependency professional trainee" means an
23 individual working toward the education and experience requirements
24 for certification as a chemical dependency professional.

25 (4) "Chemical dependency counseling" means employing the core
26 competencies of chemical dependency counseling to assist or attempt
27 to assist (~~(an alcohol or drug addicted person to develop and~~
28 ~~maintain abstinence from alcohol and other mood-altering))
29 individuals who are using or dependent on alcohol or other drugs.~~

30 (5) "Committee" means the chemical dependency certification
31 advisory committee established under this chapter.

32 (6) "Core competencies of chemical dependency counseling" means
33 competency in the nationally recognized knowledge, skills, and
34 attitudes of professional practice, including assessment and
35 diagnosis of chemical dependency, chemical dependency treatment
36 planning and referral, patient and family education in the disease of
37 chemical dependency, individual and group counseling with alcoholic
38 and drug addicted individuals, relapse prevention counseling, and
39 case management (~~(, all oriented to assist alcoholic and drug addicted~~

1 ~~patients to achieve and maintain abstinence from mood-altering~~
2 ~~substances and develop independent support systems)).~~

3 (7) "Department" means the department of health.

4 (8) "Health profession" means a profession providing health
5 services regulated under the laws of this state.

6 (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's
7 designee.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.83
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 The department shall reduce the total number of supervised
11 experience hours required under RCW 18.83.070 by three months for any
12 applicant for a license under this chapter who has practiced as a
13 certified chemical dependency professional for three years in the
14 previous ten years.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.225
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 The department shall reduce the total number of supervised
18 experience hours required under RCW 18.225.090 by ten percent for any
19 applicant for a license under this chapter who has practiced as a
20 certified chemical dependency professional for three years in the
21 previous ten years.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act take
23 effect July 1, 2020.

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