

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5715**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Nguyen, O'Ban, Randall, Rolfes, Short, Takko, Van De Wege, Walsh, Wilson, C., and Zeiger)

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;

18 (d) Mental health counselors licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW;  
19 and

20 (e) An agency affiliated counselor under chapter 18.19 RCW with a  
21 master's degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of

1 the social sciences from an accredited college or university who has  
2 at least two years of experience, experience gained under the  
3 supervision of a mental health professional recognized by the  
4 department or attested to by the licensed behavioral health agency,  
5 in direct treatment of persons with mental illness or emotional  
6 disturbance.

7 (2) The training standards must be designed with consideration of  
8 the practices of the health professions listed in subsection (1) of  
9 this section and consist of no more than thirty-five hours of  
10 instruction in the following topics:

11 (a) Understanding addiction;

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

13 (c) Understanding addiction placement, continuing care, and  
14 discharge criteria, including American society of addiction medicine  
15 criteria;

16 (d) Treatment planning specific to substance abuse;

17 (e) Relapse prevention; and

18 (f) Confidentiality issues specific to substance use disorder  
19 treatment.

20 (3) In developing the training standards, the department shall  
21 consult with the examining board of psychology established in chapter  
22 18.83 RCW, the Washington state mental health counselors, marriage  
23 and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee  
24 established in chapter 18.225 RCW, the chemical dependency  
25 certification advisory committee established in chapter 18.205 RCW,  
26 and educational institutions in Washington state that train  
27 psychologists, marriage and family therapists, mental health  
28 counselors, independent clinical social workers, and chemical  
29 dependency professionals.

30 (4) The department shall approve educational programs that meet  
31 the training standards, which must not be limited to university-based  
32 courses.

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

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

37 (1) Beginning July 1, 2020, subject to the availability of  
38 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall  
39 contract with an educational program to offer the training developed

1 under section 1 of this act. The contracted educational program shall  
2 offer the training at a reduced cost to health care providers  
3 identified in section 1 of this act. The training must be (a)  
4 available online on an ongoing basis and (b) offered in person at  
5 least four times per calendar year.

6 (2) Beginning July 1, 2020, subject to the availability of  
7 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall  
8 contract with an entity to provide a telephonic consultation service  
9 to assist health care providers who have been issued a chemical  
10 dependency professional certification pursuant to RCW 18.205.090 with  
11 the diagnosis and treatment of patients with co-occurring behavioral  
12 health disorders.

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

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

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

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

22 (a) (i) Completion of an educational program approved by the  
23 secretary or successful completion of alternate training that meets  
24 established criteria;

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

27 ~~((c))~~ (iii) Successful completion of an experience requirement  
28 that establishes fewer hours of experience for applicants with higher  
29 levels of relevant education. In meeting any experience requirement  
30 established under this subsection, the secretary may not require more  
31 than one thousand five hundred hours of experience in chemical  
32 dependency counseling for applicants who are licensed under chapter  
33 18.83 RCW or under chapter 18.79 RCW as advanced registered nurse  
34 practitioners; or

35 (b) (i) The applicant is one of the following health care  
36 providers:

37 (A) A psychologist under chapter 18.83 RCW;

38 (B) An independent clinical social worker under chapter 18.225  
39 RCW;

1 (C) A marriage and family therapist under chapter 18.225 RCW;  
2 (D) A mental health counselor under chapter 18.225 RCW; or  
3 (E) An agency affiliated counselor under chapter 18.19 RCW with a  
4 master's degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of  
5 the social sciences from an accredited college or university who has  
6 at least two years of experience, experience gained under the  
7 supervision of a mental health professional recognized by the  
8 department or attested to by the licensed behavioral health agency,  
9 in direct treatment of persons with mental illness or emotional  
10 disturbance;

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

14 (iii) Successfully completes the examination required under  
15 (a)(ii) of this subsection; and

16 (iv) Successfully completes an experience requirement of:

17 (A) Eighty hours of supervised experience for an applicant listed  
18 under (b)(i) of this subsection with fewer than five years of  
19 experience; or

20 (B) Forty hours of supervised experience for an applicant listed  
21 under (b)(i) of this subsection with five or more years of  
22 experience.

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

25 (3) Applicants are subject to the grounds for denial of a  
26 certificate or issuance of a conditional certificate under chapter  
27 18.130 RCW.

28 (4) Certified chemical dependency professionals shall not be  
29 required to be registered under chapter 18.19 RCW or licensed under  
30 chapter 18.225 RCW.

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

33 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
34 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

1 (2) "Certified chemical dependency professional" means an  
2 individual certified in chemical dependency counseling, under this  
3 chapter.

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

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

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

14 (6) "Core competencies of chemical dependency counseling" means  
15 competency in the nationally recognized knowledge, skills, and  
16 attitudes of professional practice, including assessment and  
17 diagnosis of chemical dependency, chemical dependency treatment  
18 planning and referral, patient and family education in the disease of  
19 chemical dependency, individual and group counseling with alcoholic  
20 and drug addicted individuals, relapse prevention counseling, and  
21 case management (~~(, all oriented to assist alcoholic and drug addicted~~  
22 ~~patients to achieve and maintain abstinence from mood-altering~~  
23 ~~substances and develop independent support systems))~~).

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

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

27 (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's  
28 designee.

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

31 The department shall reduce the total number of supervised  
32 experience hours required under RCW 18.83.070 by three months for any  
33 applicant for a license under this chapter who has practiced as a  
34 certified chemical dependency professional for three years in the  
35 previous ten years.

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

1       The department shall reduce the total number of supervised  
2 experience hours required under RCW 18.225.090 by ten percent for any  
3 applicant for a license under this chapter who has practiced as a  
4 certified chemical dependency professional for three years in the  
5 previous ten years.

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

--- END ---