

# SENATE BILL No. 72

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 25-23.6-2-8.

**Synopsis:** Therapist immunity from professional discipline. Provides that the behavioral health and human services licensing board may not impose disciplinary sanctions against a practitioner if the basis of the licensing complaint is retaliatory against the practitioner for testifying in a child custody proceeding, a child in need of services proceeding, or a termination of parent-child relationship proceeding.

**Effective:** July 1, 2025.

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January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.

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First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 72

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 25-23.6-2-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.98-2023,
- 2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. (a) The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
- 4 establishing standards for the following:
- 5 (1) The competent practice of marriage and family therapy,
- 6 bachelor's degree social work, social work, clinical social work,
- 7 mental health counseling, addiction counseling, and clinical
- 8 addiction counseling.
- 9 (2) The renewal of licenses issued under this article.
- 10 (3) Standards for the administration of this article.
- 11 (4) Continuing education requirements for an individual seeking
- 12 renewal of licensure as a bachelor's degree social worker, social
- 13 worker, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist.
- 14 (5) The retention of patient records and reports by a counselor.
- 15 (6) The approval of continuing education providers, programs,
- 16 courses, fees, and proof of course completion.
- 17 (b) The board shall establish fees under IC 25-1-8-2.



- 1 (c) The board shall do the following:  
2 (1) Consider the qualifications of individuals who apply for a  
3 license under this article.  
4 (2) Provide for examinations required under this article.  
5 (3) Subject to IC 25-1-8-6, renew licenses under this article.  
6 (4) Conduct proceedings under IC 25-1-9.  
7 (5) Administer the professional counselors licensure compact  
8 under IC 25-42.5, including appointing members to the  
9 counseling compact commission and adopting any rules necessary  
10 to administer the compact.  
11 **(d) The board may not impose any disciplinary sanctions in a**  
12 **proceeding conducted under subsection (c)(4) if the basis of the**  
13 **complaint against the practitioner is a retaliatory claim for**  
14 **testifying in a:**  
15 **(1) child custody proceeding under IC 31-17;**  
16 **(2) child in need of services proceeding under IC 31-34; or**  
17 **(3) termination of parent-child relationship proceeding under**  
18 **IC 31-35.**

