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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1103(7), the introductory paragraph of 1103(10), and R.S. 37:1107(A)(8)(a), and to enact R.S. 37:1103(12), relative to boards and commissions; to provide for the definition of mental health counseling services; to provide for the definition of the practice of mental health counseling; to provide for the definition of serious mental illness; to provide for the requirements of a licensed professional counselor; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:1103(7), the introductory paragraph of 1103(10), and R.S. 37:1107(A)(8)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:1103(12) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1103. Definitions

\* \* \*

(7) "Mental health counseling services" means ~~those acts and behaviors coming within the practice of mental health counseling as defined in this Chapter, including the diagnosis and treatment, which includes psychotherapy, of conditions or disorders requiring mental health counseling as defined in Subparagraph (10)(c) of this Section~~ **rendering or offering prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, which includes psychotherapy, of mental, emotional, behavioral, and addiction disorders to individuals, groups, organizations, or the general public by a licensed professional counselor, which is consistent with his professional training as prescribed by R.S. 37:1107(A)(8), and code of ethics/behavior involving the application of principles, methods, or procedures of the mental health counseling profession.** However, **nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any person licensed under the provisions of this Chapter to assess, diagnose, or provide treatment to any individual suffering from a**

1 serious mental illness, as defined by this Section, unless that individual is under  
 2 the active care of a practitioner who is licensed by the Louisiana State Board of  
 3 Medical Examiners and is authorized to prescribe medications in the  
 4 management of psychiatric illness, and only in the context of an ongoing  
 5 consultation and collaboration with that practitioner. Moreover, except as  
 6 provided in this Section, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any  
 7 person licensed hereunder to administer or interpret tests in accordance with the  
 8 provisions of R.S. 37:2352(5), except as provided by Title 46, Part LXIII, Chapter  
 9 17, Section 1702(E) of the Louisiana Administrative Code, or engage in the practice  
 10 of psychology or to prescribe, either orally or in writing, distribute, dispense, or  
 11 administer any medications.

12 \* \* \*

13 (10) "Practice of mental health counseling" means rendering or offering  
 14 prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, which includes  
 15 psychotherapy, of mental, emotional, behavioral, and addiction disorders to  
 16 individuals, groups, organizations, or the general public by a licensed professional  
 17 counselor, ~~any service~~ which is consistent with his professional training as  
 18 prescribed by R.S. 37:1107(A)(8), and code of ethics/behavior involving the  
 19 application of principles, methods, or procedures of the mental health counseling  
 20 profession which ~~include~~ includes but ~~are~~ is not limited to:

21 \* \* \*

22 (12) "Serious mental illness" means any of the following diagnoses:

23 (a) Schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.

24 (b) Bipolar disorder.

25 (c) Panic disorder.

26 (d) Obsessive-compulsive disorder.

27 (e) Major depressive disorder.

28 (f) Anorexia/bulimia.

29 (g) Intermittent explosive disorder.

30 (h) Autism.



1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
2 effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_