

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 12/18/2023

LRB Number	23-2786/1	Introduction Number	AB-0607	Estimate Type	Original
Description provision of psychotherapy by qualified treatment trainees and applicants for certain training licenses in outpatient mental health clinics					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current administrative code, qualified treatment trainees are able to provide psychotherapy services at outpatient mental health clinics certified by the Department of Health Services. Under the administrative rules promulgated by the Department, a qualified treatment trainee can either be a graduate student who is enrolled in an accredited institution in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, nursing or a closely related field or a person with a graduate degree from an accredited university and course work in the same fields as above, but who has not yet completed their supervised practice requirements.

This bill would amend the administrative rule definition of qualified treatment trainees to include a person with a graduate degree from an accredited institution in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, nursing or a closely related field who has submitted an application for a social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor training license. Under this provision, the individual would be considered a qualified treatment trainee until granted a training license, or for one year after their application for a training license is submitted. Under this bill, individuals meeting these standards would be considered qualified treatment trainees upon submission of their application for a training license, but individuals would no longer be considered qualified treatment trainees after receiving their training license. The bill does not adjust the definitions of qualified treatment trainees in DHS Chapters 40, 50, or 75, limiting the use of qualified treatment trainees only to outpatient mental health clinics certified by DHS.

The bill also directs DHS to promulgate rules to allow qualified treatment trainees and individuals with a graduate degree from an accredited institution in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, nursing or a closely related field who has submitted an application for a training license, but who have not been granted a training license, to provide psychotherapy under supervision to patients in a DHS-certified outpatient mental health clinic.

The bill also directs the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board to promulgate rules establishing standards of conduct for qualified treatment trainees to engage in psychotherapy in outpatient mental health clinics.

The Department would be able to implement the provisions of this bill using existing staff and resources.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications