

## SENATE FILE NO. SF0056

Mental health professions practice act amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim  
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to mental health professions licensing;  
2 defining when mental health education is required for  
3 professional licensure; defining qualifications to practice  
4 as a certified addictions practitioner; providing for  
5 criminal background checks; repealing obsolete provisions;  
6 providing standards for licensure as a certified mental  
7 health worker; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 7-19-106(a) by creating a new  
12 paragraph (xxx), 33-38-105 by creating a new subsection (j)  
13 and 33-38-106(c)(ii), (iii), by creating a new paragraph  
14 (vii) and by creating a new subsection (q) are amended to  
15 read:

1

2           **7-19-106. Access to, and dissemination of, information.**

3

4           (a) Criminal history record information shall be  
5 disseminated by criminal justice agencies in this state,  
6 whether directly or through any intermediary, only to:

7

8           (xxx) The mental health professions licensing  
9 board for purposes of obtaining background information on  
10 applicants for licensure or certification by the board.

11

12           **33-38-105. Powers and duties of the board; rules;**  
13 **meetings; fees.**

14

15           (j) The board shall request criminal history background  
16 information on license or certificate applicants as  
17 authorized under W.S. 7-19-106(a)(xxx).

18

19           **33-38-106. Requirements for licensure and**  
20 **certification.**

21

22           (c) Certification under this subsection shall allow  
23 practice as a certified addictions practitioner only under

1 the supervision of a qualified clinical supervisor and  
2 subject to any other restrictions which may be specified by  
3 the board. The board shall grant certification as a certified  
4 addictions practitioner to any applicant who files an  
5 application upon a form and in the manner prescribed by the  
6 board, accompanied by the appropriate fee and who furnishes  
7 satisfactory evidence to the board of the following:

8  
9 (ii) As confirmed through the criminal records  
10 check required by W.S. 33-38-105(j), the applicant has no  
11 felony convictions and no misdemeanor convictions that relate  
12 adversely to the practice of addictions therapy or to the  
13 ability to practice addictions therapy, although exceptions  
14 to this requirement may be granted by the board if consistent  
15 with the public interest;

16  
17 (iii) The applicant has received a baccalaureate  
18 degree in a human ~~resource~~ behavioral discipline from a  
19 regionally accredited institution of higher education, which  
20 is professional in content and ~~which meets the academic and~~  
21 ~~training content standards recognized by national standards~~  
22 in the field of addiction therapy as established by the board,  
23 ~~or~~ has received a baccalaureate level equivalency in

1 addiction therapy or the applicant holds in good standing a  
2 current certification as a certified addictions professional  
3 assistant with not less than two thousand (2,000) hours of  
4 supervised work experience as defined by the board and has  
5 demonstrated knowledge in the field of addictions treatment  
6 as shown by a passing score on a standard examination as  
7 determined and administered by the board. In performing its  
8 duties under this paragraph, the board shall use the  
9 professional training and experience standards of ~~the~~  
10 appropriate national professional associations ~~as established~~  
11 ~~by the rules and regulations~~ or the standards of an  
12 appropriate federal agency;

13

14 (vii) Notwithstanding paragraphs (iii) and (vi) of  
15 this subsection, a person who has received a baccalaureate  
16 degree in a mental health discipline, other than a degree in  
17 addictions therapy, may be granted full certification under  
18 this section after providing to the board satisfactory proof  
19 of completion of two thousand (2,000) hours of supervised  
20 work experience.

21

22 (q) Certification under this subsection shall allow  
23 practice as a certified mental health worker only under the

1 supervision of a qualified clinical supervisor and subject to  
2 any other restrictions which may be specified by the board.  
3 The board shall grant certification as a certified mental  
4 health worker to any applicant who files an application upon  
5 a form and in the manner prescribed by the board, accompanied  
6 by the appropriate fee and who furnishes satisfactory  
7 evidence to the board of the following:

8  
9 (i) The applicant has reached the age of majority;

10  
11 (ii) As confirmed through the criminal records  
12 check required by W.S. 33-38-105(j), the applicant has no  
13 felony convictions and no misdemeanor convictions that relate  
14 adversely to the practice of clinical mental health work or  
15 to the ability to practice clinical mental health work,  
16 although exceptions to this requirement may be granted by the  
17 board if consistent with the public interest;

18  
19 (iii) The applicant has received a baccalaureate  
20 degree in a mental health discipline from an accredited  
21 program and institution of higher education, which is  
22 professional in content and which meets the academic and  
23 training content standards established by the board. The

1 board shall use the professional training and experience  
2 standards of the appropriate professional associations as  
3 established by the rules and regulations;

4  
5 (iv) The applicant has demonstrated knowledge in  
6 the field of mental health work in general by passing a  
7 standard examination which may be written or situational, as  
8 the board prescribes. The board may develop, adopt and  
9 administer appropriate examinations. The board shall  
10 establish specific provisions for examination of applicants  
11 for certification in the specific discipline at reasonable  
12 times and places at least twice each year;

13  
14 (v) Unless extended, the applicant has six (6)  
15 months from the date of employment to become certified. The  
16 board may, for good cause shown, grant an extension of this  
17 grace period.

18  
19 **Section 2.** W.S. 33-38-106(e) through (m) and (p) is  
20 repealed.

21

1           **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

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3

(END)