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## DIGEST

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HB 822 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

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**Abstract:** Revises the Addictive Disorders Practice Act; provides for the governing board of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority to be the successor to the La. Dept. of Health with respect to credentialing of professionals who engage in the practice of counseling of persons with addictive disorders.

Present law provides for the licensing, certification, registration, and other credentialing of the following professionals who engage in the practice of counseling of persons with addictive disorders:

- (1) Licensed addiction counselors.
- (2) Certified addiction counselors.
- (3) Registered addiction counselors.
- (4) Counselors-in-training.
- (5) Addiction treatment assistants.
- (6) Certified clinical supervisors.
- (7) Certified compulsive gambling counselors.
- (8) Licensed prevention professionals.
- (9) Certified prevention professionals.
- (10) Registered prevention professionals.
- (11) Certified prevention supervisors.
- (12) Prevention services assistants.

Proposed law repeals all provisions relating to prevention services assistants. Retains provisions relating to the other professionals listed above.

Present law provides that the authority for issuing and recognizing credentials for professionals

engaged in providing counseling and prevention services for those who suffer from addictive disorders shall be the office of behavioral health of the La. Department of Health (department). Proposed law changes this authority from the department to the governing board of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority created and provided for in present law (board).

Present law provides for enumerated powers and duties of the department with respect to credentialing of professionals engaged in providing counseling and prevention services for those who suffer from addictive disorders. Proposed law revises present law to assign these powers and duties to the board.

Present law establishes the scope of practice and credentialing requirements for licensed addiction counselors, certified addiction counselors, and registered addiction counselors, respectively. Proposed law deletes requirements that licensed addiction counselor candidates, certified addiction counselor candidates, and registered addiction counselor candidates demonstrate competence by passing an oral examination. Otherwise, retains present law, including the requirement that candidates demonstrate competence by passing a written examination.

Proposed law establishes the following limitations and requirements for certified addiction counselors:

- (1) The certified addiction counselor shall work only under the supervision of a licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional.
- (2) The certified addiction counselor shall register his supervisory licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional with the board.
- (3) Supervisory contact between the certified addiction counselor and the supervisory licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional shall be regular and documented, and shall be provided to the board upon request.

Proposed law establishes the following limitations and requirements for registered addiction counselors:

- (1) The registered addiction counselor shall work only under the supervision of a licensed addiction counselor or other qualified mental health professional.
- (2) The registered addiction counselor shall register his supervisory licensed addiction counselor or other qualified mental health professional with the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority.
- (3) Supervisory contact between the registered addiction counselor and the supervisory licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional must be regular and documented, and shall be provided to the board.

Proposed law authorizes the board, in its discretion, to maintain the confidentiality of an individual

licensee, registrant, or certificate holder who violates a provision of present law or proposed law whenever it determines that the public interest will be best served by alternatives to the disciplinary process.

Proposed law repeals the following provisions of present law:

- (1) Provisions relating to prevention services assistants.
- (2) Date-specific provisions that have become obsolete.

(Amends R.S. 36:259(A)(20) and R.S. 37:3386.1-3387.4, 3387.5(B)-(D), (E)(intro. para.) and (1)-(3), (F), and (G)(2)-(4), 3387.6(B)-(D), (E)(intro. para.), (2), (3), (5), and (6), (F), (G)(2)-(4), and (I), 3387.10(B), (C), (D)(intro. para.), (1)-(4), (5)(b)-(d), and (6)-(8), and (E), 3387.11(B), (C), (D)(intro. para.), (1)-(4), (5)(b)-(d), and (6)-(8), and (E), 3387.12(B), (C), (D)(intro. para.), (1)-(4), (5)(b)-(d), and (6)-(8), and (E), 3387.14(B)-(E), 3388(B) and (C), 3388.1(B) and (C), 3388.2(B)-(D), 3388.3(A), 3388.4(A)(intro. para.) and (8)-(11) and (B), 3389, 3390, 3390.1(C) and (D), 3390.2, 3390.3(A)(intro. para.), (3), (5), (7), and (12) and (B)-(D), 3390.4(intro. para.) and (5), and 3390.6(A) and (B)(intro. para.) and (1)-(7); Adds R.S. 37:3388.4(A)(13)-(15) and 3390.3(E); Repeals R.S. 37:3387.10(F) and (G), 3387.13, and 3388.3(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.