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## DIGEST

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HB 159 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

**Abstract:** Requires mental health rehabilitation providers meeting certain criteria to be licensed in accordance with the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law.

Present law known as the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law, R.S. 40:2151 et seq., authorizes the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of persons receiving behavioral health services through licensure and regulation of behavioral health services providers.

Present law defines "behavioral health services provider" as a facility, agency, institution, person, society, corporation, partnership, unincorporated association, group, or other legal entity that provides behavioral health services and presents itself to the public as a provider of behavioral health services.

Proposed law retains above provisions of present law.

Present law exempts certain types of providers from the requirement for licensure as a behavioral health services provider established in present law. Proposed law repeals present law exempting healthcare providers meeting all of the following criteria from the requirement for licensure as a behavioral health services provider:

- (1) Was an accredited mental health rehabilitation provider enrolled in the La. Medicaid program as of Feb. 28, 2012.
- (2) Was enrolled with the statewide management organization for the La. Behavioral Health Partnership as of March 1, 2012.
- (3) Maintains continuous, uninterrupted accreditation through an approved accreditation organization.
- (4) Maintains continuous, uninterrupted enrollment with the statewide management organization for the La. Behavioral Health Partnership.

Proposed law requires mental health rehabilitation providers meeting the criteria above to be licensed as behavioral health services providers in accordance with present law and proposed law prior to April 1, 2018, in order to provide behavioral health services.

Proposed law requires each provider subject to proposed law to submit a completed application to LDH for a behavioral health services provider license on or before Dec. 1, 2017.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 40:2154.1; Repeals R.S. 40:2154(A)(14))