

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 168

BY SENATOR STINE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Provides relative to the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority. (2/3CA7s2.1(A)) (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(B),  
3 3388.3, and 3390.6(B)(6) through (8) and R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(3)(b), to enact R.S.  
4 37:3386.2(B)(7), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, 3388.5, and 3390.6(B)(9), and  
5 to repeal R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(5), relative to the Addictive Disorder Regulatory  
6 Authority; to provide for the board's authority; to provide for board membership; to  
7 provide for definitions; to provide for scope of practice; to provide for peer support  
8 specialist associates; to provide for peer support specialist supervisors; to provide for  
9 renewals; to provide for fees; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(B),  
12 3388.3, and 3390.6(B)(6) through (8) and R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(3)(b) are hereby amended and  
13 reenacted and R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, 3388.5, and  
14 3390.6(B)(9) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §3386.1. Definitions

16 As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the meaning ascribed to  
17 them in this Section:

1 (1) "Addiction counselor" means any person who is licensed, certified, or  
2 registered in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and procedures  
3 established by the board and who, by means of his special knowledge acquired  
4 through formal education or practical experience, is qualified to provide addiction  
5 counseling services to those individuals afflicted with or suffering from an addictive  
6 disorder or certain co-occurring disorders. The counseling services provided shall be  
7 those which utilize KSA or core functions, as determined by the board to be  
8 appropriate for the addictive disorder or disorders presented.

9 (2) "Addictive disorder" means the repeated pathological use of substances  
10 including but not limited to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, or repeated pathological  
11 compulsive behaviors including but not limited to gambling, which cause physical,  
12 psychological, emotional, economic, legal, social, or other harms to the individual  
13 afflicted with the addiction or to others affected by the individual's affliction. As  
14 used in this Chapter, "addictive disorder" shall include not only those instances  
15 where withdrawal from or tolerance to the substance or behaviors are present but  
16 also those instances involving use and abuse of substances.

17 **(3) "Behavioral health condition" means a condition that affects an**  
18 **individual's emotional, psychological, cognitive, behavioral, or social**  
19 **functioning and may impact their ability to pursue health, wellness, recovery,**  
20 **and quality of life, and includes substance use-related conditions, mental health**  
21 **conditions, co-occurring conditions, trauma-related impacts, and patterns of**  
22 **behavior that create functional impairment, distress, or increased risk of harm**  
23 **to the individual or others.**

24 ~~(3)~~**(4)** "Board" means the governing body of the Addictive Disorder  
25 Regulatory Authority.

26 ~~(4)~~**(5)** "Certified clinical supervisor" means any person holding the necessary  
27 credential of licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor or any person who  
28 holds a specialty substance abuse credential in another professional discipline in a  
29 human services field at the master's level or higher; and who has satisfied the

1 requirements established by the board to provide clinical supervision.

2 ~~(5)~~(6) "Client" means the individual, couple, family, group, organization, or  
3 community that seeks or receives addiction counseling services from the addiction  
4 professional or an addiction facility until discharged.

5 ~~(6)~~(7) "Clinical supervision" means the interpersonal tutorial relationship  
6 between a certified clinical supervisor and other licensed, certified, or registered  
7 addiction counseling professionals centered on the goals of skill development and  
8 professional growth through learning and practicing. Through observation,  
9 evaluation, and feedback, clinical supervision enables the supervisee to acquire the  
10 competence needed to deliver effective patient care while fulfilling professional  
11 responsibility. Clinical supervision is understood to emphasize improvement of the  
12 counseling skills and effectiveness of the supervisee and is to be distinguished from  
13 administrative supervision.

14 ~~(7)~~(8) "Compulsive gambling counselor" means any person holding a  
15 necessary credential as a licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor, or a  
16 necessary credential as a qualified mental health professional, who is certified by the  
17 board, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, as possessing special  
18 knowledge acquired through formal education and clinical experience and thus is  
19 qualified to provide gambling addiction counseling to persons who have a gambling  
20 addiction disorder or who exhibit gambling addictive behaviors.

21 ~~(8)~~(9) "Co-occurring disorder" means a disorder in which an individual has  
22 at least one psychiatric disorder as well as an addictive disorder. While these  
23 disorders may interact differently in any one person, at least one disorder of each  
24 type can be diagnosed independently of the other.

25 ~~(9)~~(10) "Core functions" means the screening, intake, orientation, assessment,  
26 treatment planning, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, client  
27 education, referral, reports, and record-keeping activities associated with counseling  
28 and consultation with other credentialed professionals.

29 ~~(10)~~(11) "Counselor-in-training" means any person who has not yet met the

1 qualification to become a licensed, certified, or registered counselor, but who has  
2 made application to the board in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and  
3 procedures established by the board.

4 ~~(11)~~**(12)** "Custodial environment" means a setting created by a court system  
5 in which a person has been deprived of freedom of action in any significant way.

6 ~~(12)~~**(13)** "KSA" means the knowledge, skills, and attitudes designated by the  
7 board as being necessary for effective addiction counseling and required by the board  
8 to be utilized by addictive disorders counselors in providing addiction counseling  
9 services.

10 **(14) "Licensed mental health professional" means an individual who is**  
11 **currently licensed and in good standing in the state of Louisiana to practice**  
12 **within the scope of all applicable state laws, practice acts, and the individual's**  
13 **professional license, as one of the following:**

14 **(a) Medical psychologist.**

15 **(b) Licensed psychologist.**

16 **(c) Licensed clinical social worker.**

17 **(d) Licensed professional counselor.**

18 **(e) Licensed marriage and family therapist.**

19 **(f) Licensed addiction counselor.**

20 **(g) Advanced practice registered nurse.**

21 **(h) Licensed rehabilitation counselor.**

22 **(15) "Peer support" means nonclinical, strengths-based activities and**  
23 **services provided by an individual in recovery from a behavioral health**  
24 **condition to a person experiencing a behavioral health condition. Such services**  
25 **are grounded in lived experience and include mentoring, guiding, and**  
26 **supporting individuals in the identification and implementation of recovery**  
27 **strategies through relationship-based support. Peer support utilizes shared**  
28 **experience to provide empathy, practical guidance, encouragement, and hope,**  
29 **and may include assistance with self-advocacy, goal setting, and engagement**

1 with treatment and community-based recovery supports. Peer support services  
2 complement but do not replace clinical treatment and shall not include  
3 diagnosis, clinical assessment, psychotherapy, or any service requiring  
4 professional licensure.

5 (16) "Peer support specialist" means any person who is credentialed in  
6 accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and procedures established by  
7 the board and who, by means of his special knowledge acquired through formal  
8 education and lived experience, is qualified to provide behavioral health  
9 services to those individuals afflicted with or suffering from a behavioral health  
10 condition. The services provided shall be those which utilize support services or  
11 core functions, as determined by the board.

12 (17) "Peer support specialist associate" means any person who has not  
13 yet met the qualifications to become a peer support specialist, but who has made  
14 application to the board in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and  
15 procedures established by the board.

16 (18) "Peer support specialist supervisor" means any person holding the  
17 necessary credential of peer support specialist, licensed mental health  
18 professional, certified, or registered addiction counselor and who has satisfied  
19 the requirements established by the board to provide peer supervision.

20 ~~(13)~~(19) "Prevention" means those activities and services that prevent,  
21 reduce, or stabilize the incidence of addictive disorders and thereby prevent, reduce,  
22 or stabilize the prevalence of addictive disorders. The activities contemplated by this  
23 definition include services to those at risk of developing an addictive disorder as well  
24 as those individuals who, though not necessarily at risk of developing an addictive  
25 disorder, are nonetheless appropriate for services. In addition, prevention shall be  
26 understood to include educational programs and activities that are designed to raise  
27 the awareness of and encourage healthy behaviors.

28 ~~(14)~~(20) "Prevention specialist-in-training" means any person who has not  
29 yet met the qualifications to become a licensed, certified, or registered prevention

1 professional, but who has made application to the board in accordance with the  
2 provisions of this Chapter and procedures established by the board.

3 ~~(15)~~**(21)** "Qualified mental health professional" means:

4 (a) A psychiatrist licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:1261 et seq.

5 (b) A psychologist licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:2351 et seq., or a medical  
6 psychologist licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.

7 (c) A licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:2701 et seq.

8 (d) A mental health counselor licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:1101 et seq.

9 ~~(16)~~**(22)** "Substance ~~abuse~~ use disorder" means the repeated pathological use  
10 of drugs, including alcohol, which causes physical, psychological, economic, legal,  
11 or social harm to the individual user or to others affected by the user's behavior.

12 §3386.2. Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority

13 A.**(1)** The legislature hereby finds it appropriate that the responsibility and  
14 authority to regulate the practice of addictive disorder treatment and prevention be  
15 exercised by a licensing board created for that purpose.

16 **(2) It is the intent of the legislature that there be a single authority**  
17 **issuing credentials for substance use disorder counseling, prevention, and peer**  
18 **support professionals in Louisiana. The authority for issuing and recognizing**  
19 **credentials for professionals engaged in the providing of substance use disorder**  
20 **counseling, prevention, and peer support services for those who suffer from**  
21 **behavioral health conditions shall be the Addictive Disorder Regulatory**  
22 **Authority.**

23 B. The Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority (ADRA) is hereby created  
24 within the Louisiana Department of Health. The ADRA shall be governed by a board  
25 of directors, referred to hereafter in this Chapter as the "board", consisting of ~~eight~~  
26 **nine** voting members, all of whom shall be appointed by the governor, subject to  
27 Senate confirmation, as follows:

28 \* \* \*

29 **(7) One member who represents the Louisiana Department of Health,**

1 office of behavioral health.

2 \* \* \*

3 §3387.15. Peer support specialist; scope of practice

4 A.(1) The practice of peer support within the meaning and intent of this  
5 Chapter shall consist of the rendering of mentorship, guidance, and support  
6 services to individuals suffering from a behavioral health condition to assist  
7 them in gaining an understanding of the nature of their disorder and developing  
8 and maintaining a responsible lifestyle.

9 (2) The peer support specialist may practice autonomously, independent  
10 of any other professional association or supervision. The peer support specialist  
11 cannot render clinical services.

12 (3) The scope of practice, in addition to any other applicable provision  
13 of this Chapter, shall include implementing strategic support, providing  
14 mentorship to family members, and, as appropriate, to others affected by the  
15 individual's behavioral health condition, and the utilization of KSA and core  
16 functions.

17 B. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules which govern peer  
18 support specialists in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

19 C. Any person seeking to be recognized by the board as a peer support  
20 specialist shall submit an application on a form and in a manner prescribed by  
21 the board. The initial application form shall be accompanied by an initial  
22 application fee as provided for in this Chapter.

23 D. Upon investigation of the application, the board shall, within thirty  
24 days, notify each candidate that the application is satisfactory and accepted or  
25 unsatisfactory and rejected. If an application is rejected, the notice shall state  
26 the reason for such rejection.

27 E. The board shall recognize, as a peer support specialist, each candidate  
28 who:

29 (1) Is a legal resident of the United States and at least eighteen years of

1 age on the date the application is received.

2 (2) Is not in violation of any ethical standards subscribed to by the board.

3 (3) If the applicant has lived experience with addiction, mental illness,  
4 or co-occurring disorders, the applicant shall demonstrate at least twelve  
5 months of stability and not be currently engaged in acute treatment at the time  
6 the application is received.

7 (4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo  
8 contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this  
9 requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate  
10 shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a  
11 criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check.

12 (5) Signs a form of professional and ethical accountability and  
13 responsibility as prescribed by the board.

14 (6) Demonstrates professional competence by passing a written  
15 examination.

16 (a) The board shall determine the scope and administration of the  
17 examination.

18 (b) The board may provide for circumstances under which a candidate  
19 who fails the examination, but who meets all other requirements, may retake  
20 the examination.

21 (c) The board shall make reasonable accommodations for those  
22 candidates who demonstrate a special need or disability.

23 (7) Documents the completion of education specific to the KSA peer  
24 support standards and core functions.

25 (8) Documents the completion of supervision specific to the KSA peer  
26 support standards and core functions under conditions as shall be determined  
27 by the board. The board may require that such supervision be conducted by an  
28 organization's documented and qualified supervisory staff per job description.

29 F. The board may prescribe such other qualifications and requirements

1 for peer support specialists as may be appropriate for the protection of the  
2 public or the enhancement of professional services provided pursuant to the  
3 authority of this Chapter.

4 **§3387.16. Peer support specialist associate; scope of practice**

5 **A. The practice of peer support within the meaning and intent of this**  
6 **Chapter shall consist of the rendering of mentorship, guidance, and support**  
7 **services to individuals suffering from a behavioral health condition to assist**  
8 **them in gaining an understanding of the nature of their disorder and developing**  
9 **and maintaining a responsible lifestyle.**

10 **B.(1) The status of peer support specialist associate is intended to assist**  
11 **professional development by providing qualified individuals with supervised**  
12 **professional experience.**

13 **(2) The status of peer support specialist associate is, by its very nature,**  
14 **temporary and it is anticipated that the individual will progress through the**  
15 **experience to become a peer support specialist or supervisor.**

16 **(3) The peer support specialist associate may not practice independently**  
17 **and cannot render clinical services.**

18 **(4) The peer support specialist associate may work only under the direct**  
19 **supervision of a peer support specialist, peer support supervisor, licensed**  
20 **mental health provider, certified addiction counselor, or registered addiction**  
21 **counselor.**

22 **(5) The scope of practice, in addition to any other applicable provision**  
23 **of this Chapter, shall include implementing directly-supervised strategic**  
24 **support, providing directly-supervised mentorship to family members, and, as**  
25 **appropriate, to others affected by the individual's behavioral health condition,**  
26 **and the utilization of KSA and core functions.**

27 **C. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules which govern the status**  
28 **of peer support specialist associate in accordance with the provisions of this**  
29 **Chapter.**

1            **D. Any person seeking to be recognized by the board as a peer support**  
2            **specialist associate shall submit an application to the board on a form and in a**  
3            **manner as the board shall prescribe. The initial application form shall be**  
4            **accompanied by an initial application fee as provided for in this Chapter.**

5            **E. Upon investigation of the application, the board shall, within thirty**  
6            **days, notify each candidate that the application is satisfactory and accepted or**  
7            **unsatisfactory and rejected. If an application is rejected, the notice shall state**  
8            **the reason for such rejection.**

9            **F. The board shall recognize, as a peer support specialist associate, each**  
10           **candidate who:**

11           **(1) Is a legal resident of the United States and at least eighteen years of**  
12           **age on the date the application is received.**

13           **(2) Is not in violation of any ethical standards subscribed to by the board.**

14           **(3) If the applicant has lived experience with addiction, mental illness,**  
15           **or co-occurring disorders, the applicant shall demonstrate at least twelve**  
16           **months of stability and not be currently engaged in acute treatment at the time**  
17           **the application is received.**

18           **(4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo**  
19           **contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this**  
20           **requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate**  
21           **shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a**  
22           **criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check.**

23           **(5) Signs a form of professional and ethical accountability and**  
24           **responsibility as prescribed by the board.**

25           **G. The board may prescribe such other qualifications and requirements**  
26           **for peer support specialist associate as may be appropriate for the protection**  
27           **of the public or the enhancement of professional services provided pursuant to**  
28           **the authority of this Chapter.**

29           **§3387.17. Peer support specialist supervisor; scope of practice**

1           A. The legislature finds that peer support is an effective and necessary  
2           component in the continuum of behavioral health treatment and services. In  
3           order to better provide for the health and welfare of the citizens of this state, the  
4           legislature desires to enhance the profession of peer support by providing for  
5           a qualified workforce in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of Louisiana and  
6           to contribute to the development of healthy communities within the state. The  
7           legislature finds peer support supervision to be essential for the ongoing  
8           development of a qualified workforce sufficient to meet the present and  
9           anticipated public health needs of the state.

10           B. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules which govern peer  
11           support specialist supervisors in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

12           C. Any person seeking to be recognized by the board as a peer support  
13           specialist supervisor shall submit an application to the board on a form and in  
14           a manner as the board shall prescribe. The initial application form shall be  
15           accompanied by an initial application fee as provided for in this Chapter.

16           D. Upon investigation of the application, the board shall, within thirty  
17           days, notify each candidate that the application is satisfactory and accepted or  
18           unsatisfactory and rejected. If an application is rejected, the notice shall state  
19           the reason for such rejection.

20           E. The board shall recognize, as a peer support specialist supervisor,  
21           each candidate who:

22           (1) Is a legal resident of the United States and at least eighteen years of  
23           age on the date the application is received.

24           (2) Is not in violation of any ethical standards subscribed to by the board.

25           (3) If the applicant has lived experience with addiction, mental illness,  
26           or co-occurring disorders, the applicant shall demonstrate at least twelve  
27           months of stability and not be currently engaged in acute treatment at the time  
28           the application is received.

29           (4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo

1 contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this  
2 requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate  
3 shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a  
4 criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check.

5 (5) Signs a form of professional and ethical accountability and  
6 responsibility as prescribed by the board.

7 F.(1) Each applicant shall demonstrate professional competence in peer  
8 support supervision by passing a written examination.

9 (2) The board shall determine the scope and administration of the  
10 examination.

11 (3) The board may provide for circumstances under which a candidate  
12 who fails the examination, but meets all other requirements, may retake the  
13 examination.

14 (4) The board shall make reasonable accommodations for those  
15 candidates who demonstrate a special need or disability.

16 G. A peer support specialist supervisor may provide supervision for any  
17 other peer support specialist or any peer support specialist associate.

18 \* \* \*

19 §3388.3. ~~Applicability~~ Peer support specialist renewal

20 ~~A. It is the intent of the legislature that there be a single authority issuing~~  
21 ~~credentials for addictive disorder counseling and prevention professionals in~~  
22 ~~Louisiana. The authority for issuing and recognizing credentials for professionals~~  
23 ~~engaged in the providing of counseling and prevention services for those who suffer~~  
24 ~~from addictive disorders shall be the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority.~~

25 Each peer support specialist may renew his status every twelve months.  
26 Each renewal shall be for a twelve-month period.

27 B. Within the twelve-month period provided for in Subsection A of this  
28 Section, each peer support specialist shall provide to the board documentation  
29 of successfully completing a minimum of twenty board-approved continuing

1 educational hours. Such hours shall be directly related to the area of  
2 certification, including six continuing educational hours in ethics.

3 §3388.4. Peer support specialist associate renewal

4 A. Each peer support specialist associate may renew his status every  
5 twelve months. Each renewal shall be for a twelve-month period.

6 B. Within the twelve-month period provided for in Subsection A of this  
7 Section, each peer support specialist associate shall provide to the board  
8 documentation of successfully completing a minimum of twenty  
9 board-approved continuing educational hours. Such hours shall be directly  
10 related to the area of certification, including six continuing educational hours  
11 in ethics.

12 C. The documentation required by Subsection B of this Section shall be  
13 provided on a form and in a manner prescribed by the board.

14 D. Failure to renew his status shall disqualify an individual from  
15 reapplying for peer support specialist associate status.

16 E. Any individual who has maintained peer support specialist associate  
17 status for a consecutive period equal to or less than forty-eight months shall be  
18 allowed to maintain the peer support specialist associate status for a period not  
19 to exceed sixty months.

20 §3388.5. Peer support specialist supervisor renewal

21 A. The certification for peer support specialist supervisor shall be  
22 renewed every twenty-four months.

23 B. Within the twenty-four-month period provided for in Subsection A of  
24 this Section, each peer support supervisor shall provide to the board  
25 documentation of successfully completing a minimum of twenty  
26 board-approved continuing educational hours. Such hours shall be directly  
27 related to the area of certification, including six continuing educational hours  
28 in ethics.

29 C. The documentation required by Subsection B of this Section shall be

1 provided on a form and in a manner prescribed by the board.

2 D. The board may prescribe such other requirements for renewal as may  
3 be appropriate for the protection of the public or the enhancement of  
4 professional services as provided under the authority of this Chapter.

5 \* \* \*

6 §3390.6. Addictive disorders professionals; fees and penalties

7 \* \* \*

8 B. The board may impose and collect the following fees:

9 \* \* \*

10 (6) Each application for a peer support specialist, associate, and  
11 supervisor shall be accompanied by a fee prescribed by the board. The fee for  
12 processing the application shall be in an amount at least sufficient to cover the  
13 cost of processing the application, but shall not be less than fifty dollars nor  
14 more than three hundred dollars. The fee for administering the written  
15 examination shall be in an amount at least sufficient to cover the cost of  
16 administering the written examination, but shall not be less than one hundred  
17 dollars nor more than three hundred dollars. The renewal fee for a peer support  
18 specialist, associate, or supervisor shall not be less than one hundred dollars nor  
19 more than three hundred dollars.

20 ~~(6)(7)~~ The board may require that each application or request for a copy of  
21 any roster maintained pursuant to R.S. 37:3386.3(A)(9) be accompanied by a fee of  
22 not less than one hundred dollars nor more than three hundred dollars.

23 ~~(7)(8)~~ Each training or educational institute, provider, or institution shall pay  
24 a fee of not less than two hundred nor more than two hundred fifty dollars to the  
25 board in order to be authorized to provide approved education, training, and courses.  
26 Such authorization shall be valid for a period of one year. For those education  
27 providers who elect not to seek annual approval, the board is authorized to impose  
28 and collect a fee of not less than one hundred nor more than one hundred fifty dollars  
29 for each course approved. In addition, all providers submitting course reports shall

1 pay a fee of not less than one nor more than five dollars per participant.

2 ~~(8)~~**(9)** Any person seeking approval of continuing education credit when  
3 those credits were not approved pursuant to Paragraph ~~(7)~~**(8)** of this Subsection, shall  
4 pay a fee of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each  
5 fifteen hours of continuing education credit.

6 Section 2. R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(3)(b) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 §1203.3. Refusal to hire or contract; termination of employment; exceptions to  
9 hiring prohibition; appeal procedure; waiver

10 \* \* \*

11 E.

12 \* \* \*

13 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person shall not be  
14 prohibited or disqualified from employment as a peer support specialist with a  
15 licensed behavioral health services provider if the person's criminal background  
16 check reveals he has been convicted of an offense provided for in R.S. 14:38.1 or 67,  
17 or convicted of distribution or possession with the intent to distribute controlled  
18 dangerous substances listed in Schedules I through V of the Uniform Controlled  
19 Dangerous Substances Law, R.S. 40:961 et seq., if that person meets all of the  
20 following requirements:

21 \* \* \*

22 (b) After satisfactorily completing his sentence or after being lawfully  
23 released from confinement, supervision, or probation for his most recent conviction  
24 for an offense listed in this Paragraph, the person successfully completed all training  
25 and requirements established by the office of behavioral health of the department for  
26 a peer support specialist as evidenced by a Notice of Completion of Training and  
27 Requirements issued by the office of behavioral health or its designee **Addictive**  
28 **Disorder Regulatory Authority.**

29 \* \* \*

1 Section 3. R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(5) is hereby repealed.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 168 Original

2026 Regular Session

Stine

Present law establishes the Addictive Disorders Regulatory Authority (ADRA) as the licensing board with the responsibility and authority to regulate the practice of addictive disorder treatment and prevention.

Proposed law adds that ADRA shall issue and recognize credentials for professionals engaged in providing substance use disorder counseling, prevention, and peer support services for those who suffer from behavioral health conditions.

Present law provides for the membership of ADRA.

Proposed law changes the number of members from 8 to 9 and adds a member who represents the La. Dept. of Health, office of behavioral health.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law adds definitions for "behavioral health condition", "licensed mental health professional", "peer support", "peer support specialist", "peer support specialist associate", and "peer support specialist supervisor".

Proposed law establishes the qualifications, scope of practice, and status renewal process for a person to be recognized by ADRA as a peer support specialist, peer support specialist associate, and peer support specialist supervisor.

Proposed law provides for an application fee of not less than \$50 and not more than \$300, an examination fee of not less than \$100 and not more than \$300, and a renewal fee of not less than \$100 and not more than \$300 for a peer support specialist, associate, or supervisor.

Present law requires the La. Dept. of Health to promulgate rules relative to training and requirements for peer support specialists.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law prohibits a person from being disqualified from employment as a peer support specialist with a licensed behavioral health services provider if the person's criminal background check reveals certain convictions if the person meets requirements established in present law, including successfully completing the La. Dept. of Health's training and requirements.

Proposed law changes the reference from the La. Dept. of Health to ADRA.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), 3386.2(B)(intro para), 3388.3, and 3390.6(B)(6)-(8) and R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(3)(b); adds R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, 3388.5, and 3390.6(B)(9); repeals R.S. 40:1203.3(E)(5))