

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 426 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 168 by Senator Stine)

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 and 3386.2(B)(5) and (6), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(F)(1), and
4 3386.2(G), 3387.1(A)(2)(b) through (d), 3387.2(A)(2)(b) through (d), 3387.3(B)(4),
5 3387.6(E)(1) and (3) and (I), 3388.3, 3390.3(A)(11) and (B)(4) and 3390.6(A) and
6 (B)(6) through (8) and R.S. 40:1203.3(E) and to enact R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7) through
7 (10) and (H), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, and 3390.6(B)(9), relative to the
8 Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority; to provide for the board's authority; to
9 provide for board membership; to provide for definitions; to provide for scope of
10 practice; to provide for peer support specialists; to provide for peer support specialist
11 associates; to provide for peer support specialist supervisors; to provide for criminal
12 background checks; to provide for renewals; to provide for fees; and to provide for
13 related matters.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(B), and
16 3386.2(B)(5) and (6), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(F)(1), and 3386.2(G),
17 3387.1(A)(2)(b) through (d), 3387.2(A)(2)(b) through (d), 3387.3(B)(4), 3387.6(E)(1) and

1 (3) and (I), 3388.3, 3390.3(A)(11) and (B)(4) and 3390.6(A) and (B)(6) through (8) are
2 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7) through (10) and (H), 3387.15,
3 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, and 3390.6(B)(9) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

4 §3386.1. Definitions

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

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

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

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

1 ~~(3)~~**(4)** "Board" means the governing body of the Addictive Disorder
2 Regulatory Authority.

3 ~~(4)~~**(5)** "Certified clinical supervisor" means any person holding the necessary
4 credential of licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor or any person who
5 holds a specialty substance abuse credential in another professional discipline in a
6 human services field at the master's level or higher; and who has satisfied the
7 requirements established by the board to provide clinical supervision.

8 ~~(5)~~**(6)** "Client" means the individual, couple, family, group, organization, or
9 community that seeks or receives addiction counseling services from the addiction
10 professional or an addiction facility until discharged.

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

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

27 ~~(8)~~**(9)** "Co-occurring disorder" means a disorder in which an individual has
28 at least one psychiatric disorder as well as an addictive disorder. While these
29 disorders may interact differently in any one person, at least one disorder of each

1 type can be diagnosed independently of the other.

2 ~~(9)~~**(10)** "Core functions" means the screening, intake, orientation, assessment,
3 treatment planning, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, client
4 education, referral, reports, and record-keeping activities associated with counseling
5 and consultation with other credentialed professionals.

6 ~~(10)~~**(11)** "Counselor-in-training" means any person who has not yet met the
7 qualification to become a licensed, certified, or registered counselor, but who has
8 made application to the board in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and
9 procedures established by the board.

10 **(12) "Credentialing" means licensing, certification, registration, or**
11 **recognition of status of an individual to provide mental health services in**
12 **accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.**

13 ~~(11)~~**(13)** "Custodial environment" means a setting created by a court system
14 in which a person has been deprived of freedom of action in any significant way.

15 ~~(12)~~**(14)** "KSA" means the knowledge, skills, and attitudes designated by the
16 board as being necessary for effective addiction counseling and required by the board
17 to be utilized by addictive disorders counselors in providing addiction counseling
18 services.

19 **(15) "Licensed mental health professional" means an individual who is**
20 **currently licensed and in good standing in the state of Louisiana to practice**
21 **within the scope of all applicable state laws, practice acts, and the individual's**
22 **professional license, as one of the following:**

23 **(a) Medical psychologist.**

24 **(b) Licensed psychologist.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 **(16) "Peer support" means nonclinical, strengths-based activities and**
3 **services provided by an individual in recovery from a behavioral health**
4 **condition to a person experiencing a behavioral health condition. Such services**
5 **are grounded in lived experience and include mentoring, guiding, and**
6 **supporting individuals in the identification and implementation of recovery**
7 **strategies through relationship-based support. Peer support utilizes shared**
8 **experience to provide empathy, practical guidance, encouragement, and hope,**
9 **and may include assistance with self-advocacy, goal setting, and engagement**
10 **with treatment and community-based recovery supports. Peer support services**
11 **complement but do not replace clinical treatment and shall not include**
12 **diagnosis, clinical assessment, psychotherapy, or any service requiring**
13 **professional licensure.**

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

21 **(18) "Peer support specialist associate" is a status meaning any person**
22 **who has not yet met the qualifications to become a peer support specialist, but**
23 **who has made application to the board in accordance with the provisions of this**
24 **Chapter and procedures established by the board.**

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

29 ~~(13)~~**(20)** "Prevention" means those activities and services that prevent,

1 reduce, or stabilize the incidence of addictive disorders and thereby prevent, reduce,
 2 or stabilize the prevalence of addictive disorders. The activities contemplated by this
 3 definition include services to those at risk of developing an addictive disorder as well
 4 as those individuals who, though not necessarily at risk of developing an addictive
 5 disorder, are nonetheless appropriate for services. In addition, prevention shall be
 6 understood to include educational programs and activities that are designed to raise
 7 the awareness of and encourage healthy behaviors.

8 ~~(14)~~**(21)** "Prevention specialist-in-training" means any person who has not
 9 yet met the qualifications to become a licensed, certified, or registered prevention
 10 professional, but who has made application to the board in accordance with the
 11 provisions of this Chapter and procedures established by the board.

12 ~~(15)~~ "Qualified mental health professional" means:

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

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

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

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

18 ~~(16)~~**(22)** "Substance ~~abuse~~ use disorder" means the repeated pathological use
 19 of drugs, including alcohol, which causes physical, psychological, economic, legal,
 20 or social harm to the individual user or to others affected by the user's behavior.

21 §3386.2. Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority

22 A. The legislature hereby finds ~~it appropriate~~ that the responsibility and
 23 authority to regulate ~~the practice of~~ addictive disorder treatment, ~~and prevention,~~ **and**
 24 **peer support shall** be exercised by a licensing board created for that purpose. **It is**
 25 **the intent of the legislature that a single authority issue and recognize**
 26 **credentials for addictive disorder counseling, prevention, and peer support**
 27 **professionals in Louisiana, and that such authority shall be the Addictive**
 28 **Disorder Regulatory Authority.**

29 B. The Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority (ADRA) is hereby created

1 within the Louisiana Department of Health. The ADRA shall be governed by a board
 2 of directors, referred to hereafter in this Chapter as the "board", consisting of ~~eight~~
 3 eleven voting members, composed of one member appointed by the secretary of
 4 the Louisiana Department of Health to represent the office of behavioral health
 5 and ten members all of whom shall be appointed by the governor, subject to Senate
 6 confirmation, as follows:

7 * * *

8 ~~(5) Three members from a list of nine names divided into three groups of~~
 9 ~~three names each submitted by the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse~~
 10 ~~Counselors and Trainers, Inc. One member with a master's degree in addiction~~
 11 ~~counseling, counseling, psychology, social work, or another human services field~~
 12 ~~submitted by the president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.~~

13 (6) One member with a master's degree in addiction counseling,
 14 counseling, psychology, social work, or another human services field submitted
 15 by the president of Louisiana State University.

16 (7) One member with a master's degree in addiction counseling,
 17 counseling, psychology, social work, or another human services field submitted
 18 by the president of Southern University New Orleans.

19 (8) One member with a master's degree in addiction counseling,
 20 counseling, psychology, social work, or another human services field submitted
 21 by the president of Northwestern State University.

22 (9) One member who is a trained and recognized peer support specialist
 23 with a minimum of three years of experience as a peer support specialist
 24 providing peer support services to persons with addictive disorders.

25 ~~(6)~~(10) One member who is a consumer selected from the state at large.

26 * * *

27 F. Except for the consumer member, each member of the board shall at
 28 the time of appointment:

29 (1) Be currently credentialed by the board.

1 upon request.

2 * * *

3 §3387.2. Registered addiction counselor; scope of practice

4 A. * * *

5 (2) * * *

6 (b) The registered addiction counselor shall work only under the supervision
7 of a licensed addiction counselor or other ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health
8 professional.

9 (c) The registered addiction counselor shall register his supervisory licensed
10 addiction counselor or other ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health professional with the
11 Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority.

12 (d) Supervisory contact between the registered addiction counselor and the
13 supervisory licensed addiction counselor or ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health
14 professional shall be regular and documented, and shall be provided to the board.

15 * * *

16 §3387.3. Counselor-in-training

17 * * *

18 B. * * *

19 * * *

20 (4) The counselor-in-training may work only under the direct supervision of
21 a licensed addiction counselor, certified addiction counselor, or registered addiction
22 counselor; or in the absence of a licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor,
23 under the direction of a ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health professional.

24 * * *

25 §3387.6. Certified compulsive gambling counselor

26 * * *

27 E. The board shall recognize as a certified compulsive gambling counselor
28 each candidate who:

29 (1) Is a licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor, or who is a

1 the board. The initial application form shall be accompanied by an initial
2 application fee as provided for in this Chapter.

3 D. Upon investigation of the application, the board shall, within forty-
4 five days, notify each candidate that the application is satisfactory and accepted
5 or unsatisfactory and rejected. If an application is rejected, the notice shall state
6 the reason for such rejection.

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

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

11 (2) Is not in violation of any ethical standards prescribed by the board.

12 (3) If the applicant has lived experience with a behavioral health
13 condition, has attested to at least twelve months of stability and is not currently
14 engaged in acute treatment at the time the application is received.

15 (4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo
16 contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this
17 requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate
18 shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a
19 criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check to be performed by
20 the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. The bureau shall, upon
21 request and after receipt of fingerprints and other identifying information from
22 the board, make available to the board information contained in the bureau's
23 criminal history record and identification files, which pertains to the individual
24 applying to be licensed by the board as a peer support specialist. In addition, in
25 order to determine the applicant's suitability for licensing, the bureau shall then
26 forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
27 a national criminal history check. The results of the criminal history record
28 check shall not be released to any other individual or agency outside of the
29 board. The bureau shall charge a processing fee as provided in R.S.

1 **15:587(B)(1).**

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

4 **(6) Demonstrates professional competence by passing a written**
5 **examination.**

6 **(a) The board shall determine the scope and administration of the**
7 **examination.**

8 **(b) The board may provide for circumstances under which a candidate**
9 **who fails the examination, but who meets all other requirements, may retake**
10 **the examination.**

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

13 **(7) Documents the completion of education specific to the domains of**
14 **peer support.**

15 **(8) Documents the completion of supervision specific to domains of peer**
16 **support and core functions under conditions as shall be determined by the**
17 **board. The board may require that such supervision be conducted by an**
18 **organization's documented and qualified supervisory staff per job description.**

19 **F. The board may prescribe such other qualifications and requirements**
20 **for peer support specialists as may be appropriate for the protection of the**
21 **public or the enhancement of professional services provided pursuant to the**
22 **authority of this Chapter.**

23 **§3387.16. Peer support specialist associate; scope of practice**

24 **A. The status of a peer support specialist associate within the meaning**
25 **and intent of this Chapter shall consist of the supervised rendering of**
26 **mentorship, guidance, and support services to individuals suffering from a**
27 **behavioral health condition to assist them in gaining an understanding of the**
28 **nature of their disorder and developing and maintaining a responsible lifestyle.**

29 **B.(1) The status of peer support specialist associate is intended to assist**

1 professional development by providing qualified individuals with supervised
2 professional experience.

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

6 (3) The peer support specialist associate may not practice independently
7 and cannot render clinical services.

8 (4) The peer support specialist associate may work only under the direct
9 supervision of a peer support specialist, peer support supervisor, licensed
10 mental health provider, certified addiction counselor, or registered addiction
11 counselor.

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

16 C. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules which govern the status
17 of peer support specialist associate in accordance with the provisions of this
18 Chapter.

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

23 E. Upon investigation of the application, the board shall, within forty-five
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 F. The board shall recognize, as a peer support specialist associate, each
28 candidate 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 prescribed by the board.

3 (3) If the applicant has lived experience with a behavioral health
4 condition, has attested to at least twelve months of stability and is not currently
5 engaged in acute treatment at the time the application is received.

6 (4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo
7 contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this
8 requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate
9 shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a
10 criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check to be performed by
11 the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. The bureau shall, upon
12 request and after receipt of fingerprints and other identifying information from
13 the board, make available to the board information contained in the bureau's
14 criminal history record and identification files, which pertains to the individual
15 applying to be licensed by the board as a peer support specialist. In addition, in
16 order to determine the applicant's suitability for licensing, the bureau shall then
17 forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
18 a national criminal history check. The results of the criminal history record
19 check shall not be released to any other individual or agency outside of the
20 board. The bureau shall charge a processing fee as provided in R.S.
21 15:587(B)(1).

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

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

28 §3387.17. Peer support specialist supervisor; scope of practice

29 A. The legislature finds that peer support is an effective and necessary

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) Is not in violation of any ethical standards prescribed by the board.

24 (3) If the applicant has lived experience with a behavior health condition,
25 has attested to at least twelve months of stability and is not currently engaged
26 in acute treatment at the time the application is received.

27 (4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo
28 contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this
29 requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate

1 shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a
2 criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check to be performed by
3 the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. The bureau shall, upon
4 request and after receipt of fingerprints and other identifying information from
5 the board, make available to the board information contained in the bureau's
6 criminal history record and identification files, which pertains to the individual
7 applying to be licensed by the board as a peer support specialist. In addition, in
8 order to determine the applicant's suitability for licensing, the bureau shall then
9 forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
10 a national criminal history check. The results of the criminal history record
11 check shall not be released to any other individual or agency outside of the
12 board. The bureau shall charge a processing fee as provided in R.S.
13 15:587(B)(1).

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

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

18 (2) The board shall determine the scope and administration of the
19 examination.

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

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

25 G. A peer support specialist supervisor may provide supervision for any
26 other peer support specialist or any peer support specialist associate.

27 * * *

28 §3388.3. Applicability Peer support specialist renewal

29 A. ~~It is the intent of the legislature that there be a single authority issuing~~

1 ~~credentials for addictive disorder counseling and prevention professionals in~~
2 ~~Louisiana. The authority for issuing and recognizing credentials for professionals~~
3 ~~engaged in the providing of counseling and prevention services for those who suffer~~
4 ~~from addictive disorders shall be the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority.~~

5 Each peer support specialist shall renew his certification annually. Each
6 peer support specialist associate shall renew his status annually. Each renewal
7 shall be for a twelve-month period.

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

14 C. After initial application, an individual may hold peer support
15 specialist associate status for up to sixty consecutive months. Failure to renew
16 his annual status shall disqualify an individual from reapplying for peer
17 support specialist associate status.

18 D. Individuals who, prior to July 1, 2026, had maintained peer recovery
19 support specialist certification, shall be allowed to renew or reapply for peer
20 support specialist certification.

21 E. Individuals who, prior to July 1, 2026, had maintained peer recovery
22 support specialist associate status, shall be allowed to renew or reapply for peer
23 support specialist associate status.

24 §3388.4. Peer support specialist supervisor renewal

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

27 B. Within the twenty-four-month period provided for in Subsection A of
28 this Section, each peer support supervisor shall provide to the board
29 documentation of successful completion of a minimum of twenty

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

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

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

9 * * *

10 §3390.3. Disciplinary action; administrative fee; causes; hearing; appeal

11 A. The board shall have the power to deny, revoke, or suspend any credential,
12 specialty certification, status, or other recognition authorized by this Chapter. In
13 addition, the board is authorized to impose and collect an administrative fee not to
14 exceed five hundred dollars per violation or otherwise discipline any person holding
15 a credential, specialty certification, status, or recognition authorized by this Chapter
16 who:

17 * * *

18 (11) Has been grossly negligent in practice as a licensed, certified, or
19 registered professional, professional in training, **peer support specialist**, or assistant,
20 as provided for in this Chapter.

21 * * *

22 B. The board shall adopt rules and procedures establishing a disciplinary
23 process which shall, at a minimum, comply with the following:

24 * * *

25 (4) If the board finds that public health, safety, and welfare requires
26 emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, a summary
27 suspension of a license, ~~certificate~~ **certification**, or registration, **or status** may be
28 ordered pending proceedings for disciplinary action. Such proceedings shall be
29 promptly instituted and determined pursuant to rule.

* * *

§3390.6. Addictive disorders professionals; fees and penalties

A. The board shall, by rule, adopt a schedule of fees and penalties to be charged relative to the issuance of licenses, registrations, ~~and~~ certifications, and statuses provided for in this Chapter.

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

1 the person satisfactorily completed his sentence or was lawfully released from
 2 confinement, supervision, or probation imposed by a court for the person's most
 3 recent conviction for an offense listed in this Paragraph.

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

11 ~~(4)~~**(3)** Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed as creating an obligation
 12 upon an employer to offer employment to a person.

13 ~~(5)~~**(4)** The ~~department~~ **Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority** shall
 14 promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act relating to the
 15 ~~training and requirements of peer support specialists for purposes of implementing~~
 16 this Subsection.

17 Section 3.(A) The Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority shall coordinate with the
 18 Louisiana Department of Health during the transition of peer support specialists from the
 19 department to the board.

20 (B) Any rules promulgated by the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority relative
 21 to peer support specialist associates, peer support specialists, and peer support supervisors
 22 shall align with the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA)
 23 National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification in accordance with any federal
 24 requirements by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

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)]

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 11 and adds representation from the office of behavioral health and higher education and a peer support specialist.

Proposed law provides for additional qualifications for board members, except for the consumer member.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law adds definitions for "behavioral health condition", "credentialing", "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 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 expands present law to apply to certified addiction counselors, registered addiction counselors, counselors in training, peer support specialists, or peer support specialist associates and changes the reference from the La. Dept. of Health to ADRA.

Proposed law requires ADRA to coordinate with the La. Dept. of Health during the transition of peer support specialists from the department to the board.

Proposed law provides that any rules promulgated by ADRA relative to peer support specialist associates, peer support specialists, and peer support supervisors shall align with federal requirements.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), 3386.2(B)(intro para), and 3386.2(B)(5) and (6), 3386.2(F)(1)(intro para), and 3386.2(G), 3387.1(A)(2)(b)-(d), 3387.2(A)(2)(b)-(d), 3387.3(B)(4), 3387.6(E)(1) and (3) and (I), 3388.3, 3390.3(A)(11) and (B)(4) and 3390.6(A) and (B)(6)-(8) and R.S. 40:1203.3(E); adds R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7)-(10) and (H), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, and 3390.6(B)(9))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Provides for additional qualifications for board members, except for the consumer member.
2. Requires ADRA to coordinate with the La. Dept. of Health during the transition of peer support specialists from the department to the board.
3. Provides that any rules promulgated by ADRA relative to peer support specialist associates, peer support specialists, and peer support supervisors shall align with federal requirements.