
DIGEST

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HB 826 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Bagley

Abstract: Expands the definition of "healthcare provider" in the La. Telehealth Access Act to include certain addiction counselors, prevention professionals, compulsive gambling counselors, and other behavioral health providers.

Present law known as the La. Telehealth Access Act, R.S. 40:1223.1 et seq., defines "healthcare provider", for purposes of present law, as any of the following state-licensed or state-certified health professionals and facilities: physician assistants, hospitals, nursing homes, dentists, registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed dietitians or nutritionists, licensed practical nurses, certified nurse assistants, offshore health service providers, ambulance services, licensed midwives, pharmacists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, optometrists, podiatrists, chiropractors, physical therapists, occupational therapists, certified or licensed athletic trainers, psychologists, medical psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, licensed perfusionists, licensed respiratory therapists, licensed radiologic technologists, licensed hearing aid dealers, or licensed clinical laboratory scientists.

Proposed law retains present law and expands the definition of "healthcare provider" therein to include licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselors; licensed, certified, or registered prevention professionals; certified compulsive gambling counselors; and behavioral health providers who work for licensed agencies or credentialed providers which provide community psychiatric support and treatment services or psychosocial rehabilitation services.

Present law known as the Addictive Disorders Practice Act, R.S. 37:3386 et seq., provides for powers and duties of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority (ADRA) with respect to licensure, certification, registration, and regulation of certain professionals who provide addictive disorder treatment services.

Proposed law retains present law and adds thereto an authorization for the ADRA to promulgate rules for the provision of telehealth services by licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselors; licensed, certified, or registered prevention professionals; and certified compulsive gambling counselors. Provides that such rules shall, at a minimum, comply with the applicable requirements and standards of present law comprising the La. Telehealth Access Act.

(Amends R.S. 40:1223.3(3); Adds R.S. 37:3386.3(B)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Include within proposed law behavioral health providers who work for licensed agencies or credentialed providers which provide community psychiatric support and treatment services or psychosocial rehabilitation services.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete from proposed law a defective reference to the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority regulating behavioral health professionals who provide community psychiatric support and treatment services or psychosocial rehabilitation services.