
SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Substitute for Original Senate Bill No. 168 by Senator Stine as proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(B), and 3386.2(B)(5) and (6) and (G), 3387.1(A)(2)(b) through (d), 3387.2(A)(2)(b) through (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) through (8) and R.S. 40:1203.3(E), to enact R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7) through (10), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, and 3390.6(B)(9), relative to the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority; to provide for the board's authority; to provide for board membership; to provide for definitions; to provide for scope of practice; to provide for peer support specialists; to provide for peer support specialist associates; to provide for peer support specialist supervisors; to provide for criminal background checks; to provide for renewals; to provide for fees; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:3386.1, 3386.2(A), the introductory paragraph of 3386.2(B), and 3386.2(B)(5) and (6) and (G), 3387.1(A)(2)(b) through (d), 3387.2(A)(2)(b) through (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) through (8) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:3386.2(B)(7) through (10), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, and 3390.6(B)(9) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3386.1. Definitions

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

(1) "Addiction counselor" means any person who is licensed, certified, or registered in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and procedures established by the board and who, by means of his special knowledge acquired through formal education or practical experience, is qualified to provide addiction counseling services to those individuals afflicted with or suffering from an addictive

disorder or certain co-occurring disorders. The counseling services provided shall be those which utilize KSA or core functions, as determined by the board to be appropriate for the addictive disorder or disorders presented.

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

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

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

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

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

~~(6)~~(7) "Clinical supervision" means the interpersonal tutorial relationship between a certified clinical supervisor and other licensed, certified, or registered addiction counseling professionals centered on the goals of skill development and

professional growth through learning and practicing. Through observation, evaluation, and feedback, clinical supervision enables the supervisee to acquire the competence needed to deliver effective patient care while fulfilling professional responsibility. Clinical supervision is understood to emphasize improvement of the counseling skills and effectiveness of the supervisee and is to be distinguished from administrative supervision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Medical psychologist.**
- (b) Licensed psychologist.**
- (c) Licensed clinical social worker.**
- (d) Licensed professional counselor.**
- (e) Licensed marriage and family therapist.**
- (f) Licensed addiction counselor.**
- (g) Advanced practice registered nurse.**
- (h) Licensed rehabilitation counselor.**

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

(17) "Peer support specialist" means any person who is credentialed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and procedures established by the board and who, by means of his special knowledge acquired through formal

education and lived experience, is qualified to provide behavioral health services to those individuals afflicted with or suffering from a behavioral health condition. The services provided shall be those which utilize support services or core functions, as determined by the board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§3386.2. Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority

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

B. The Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority (ADRA) is hereby created within the Louisiana Department of Health. The ADRA shall be governed by a board of directors, referred to hereafter in this Chapter as the "board", consisting of ~~eight~~ **eleven** voting members, **composed of one member appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to represent the office of behavioral health and ten members** all of whom shall be appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation, as follows:

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

G. It is the intent of the legislature that the board exercise all regulatory jurisdiction over the credentialing and practice of addiction counselors, **peer support specialists**, prevention professionals, persons holding specialty certifications issued by the board, paraprofessionals authorized by this Chapter, and those in training to become addiction counselors and prevention professionals.

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§3387.1. Certified addiction counselor; scope of practice

A. * * *

(2) * * *

(b) The certified addiction counselor shall work only under the supervision of a licensed addiction counselor or **qualified licensed** mental health professional.

(c) The certified addiction counselor shall register his supervisory licensed addiction counselor or **qualified licensed** mental health professional with the board.

(d) Supervisory contact between the certified addiction counselor and the supervisory licensed addiction counselor or **qualified licensed** mental health professional shall be regular and documented, and shall be provided to the board upon request.

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§3387.2. Registered addiction counselor; scope of practice

A. * * *

(2) * * *

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

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

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

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§3387.3. Counselor-in-training

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B.

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

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§3387.6. Certified compulsive gambling counselor

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

(1) Is a licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor, or who is a ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health professional.

* * *

(3) Does not have any pending disciplinary action with the board, or, in the case of a ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health professional, with the appropriate regulatory board.

* * *

I. The board shall revoke the certification for gambling counseling of any person who does not maintain the valid and current necessary credential of licensed, certified, or registered addiction counselor or ~~qualified~~ **licensed** mental health professional.

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§3387.15. Peer support specialist; scope of practice

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

(2) A peer support specialist shall not practice autonomously. Supervision shall be rendered by a licensed mental health professional or peer support specialist supervisor. A peer support specialist shall not render clinical services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§3387.16. Peer support specialist associate; scope of practice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) Has not been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony. However, the board may, in its discretion, waive this requirement upon review of the individual's circumstances. Each candidate shall sign a form prescribed by the board authorizing the board to obtain a criminal history or to conduct a criminal background check to be performed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. The bureau shall, upon request and after receipt of fingerprints and other identifying information from the board, make available to the board information contained in the bureau's

criminal history record and identification files, which pertains to the individual applying to be licensed by the board as a peer support specialist. In addition, in order to determine the applicant's suitability for licensing, the bureau shall then forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The results of the criminal history record check shall not be released to any other individual or agency outside of the board. The bureau shall charge a processing fee as provided in R.S. 15:587(B)(1).

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

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

§3387.17. Peer support specialist supervisor; scope of practice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§3388.4. Peer support specialist supervisor renewal

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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~~E.(1) For purposes of this Subsection, "peer support specialist" means a behavioral health staff member who possesses lived experience with his own behavioral health condition and with navigating the behavioral health services network who seeks employment with a behavioral healthcare facility or program serving people with behavioral health conditions.~~

~~(2)~~(1) The provisions of this Subsection shall apply exclusively to **certified addiction counselors, registered addiction counselors, counselors in training, peer support specialists, or peer support specialist associates** employed or contracted with a behavioral health services provider licensed by the department and shall not be construed to apply to any other person or any licensed personnel.

~~(3)~~(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person shall not be prohibited or disqualified from employment as a ~~peer support specialist~~ **certified**

addiction counselor, registered addiction counselor, counselor in training, peer support specialist, or peer support specialist associate with a licensed behavioral health services provider if the person's criminal background check reveals he has been convicted of an offense provided for in R.S. 14:38.1 or 67, or convicted of distribution or possession with the intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances listed in Schedules I through V of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, R.S. 40:961 et seq., if that person meets all of the following requirements:

(a) No less than three years prior to being hired ~~as a peer support specialist~~, the person satisfactorily completed his sentence or was lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or probation imposed by a court for the person's most recent conviction for an offense listed in this Paragraph.

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

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

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

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)]

DIGEST

SB Original

2026 Regular Session

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

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.

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) and (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), 3387.15, 3387.16, 3387.17, 3388.4, and 3390.6(B)(9))