

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 328 (HB 822)

2020 Regular Session

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Existing law provides for the licensing, certification, registration, and other credentialing of the following professionals who engage in the practice of counseling of persons with addictive disorders:

- (1) Licensed addiction counselors.
- (2) Certified addiction counselors.
- (3) Registered addiction counselors.
- (4) Counselors-in-training.
- (5) Addiction treatment assistants.
- (6) Certified clinical supervisors.
- (7) Certified compulsive gambling counselors.
- (8) Licensed prevention professionals.
- (9) Certified prevention professionals.
- (10) Registered prevention professionals.
- (11) Certified prevention supervisors.

New law repeals prior law which created and provided for the profession of prevention services assistant.

Prior law established that the authority for issuing and recognizing credentials for professionals engaged in providing counseling and prevention services for those who suffer from addictive disorders was the office of behavioral health of the La. Department of Health (referred to hereafter as the "department"). New law provides that this authority shall be the governing board of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority created and provided for in existing law (referred to hereafter as the "board").

Prior law provided for enumerated powers and duties of the department with respect to credentialing of professionals engaged in providing counseling and prevention services for those who suffer from addictive disorders. New law assigns these powers and duties to the board.

New law repeals prior law which required that licensed addiction counselor candidates, certified addiction counselor candidates, and registered addiction counselor candidates demonstrate competence by passing an oral examination. Existing law requires that such candidates demonstrate competence by passing a written examination.

New law establishes the following limitations and requirements for certified addiction counselors:

- (1) The certified addiction counselor shall work only under the supervision of a licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional.
- (2) The certified addiction counselor shall register his supervisory licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional with the board.
- (3) Supervisory contact between the certified addiction counselor and the supervisory licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional shall be regular and documented, and shall be provided to the board upon request.

New law establishes the following limitations and requirements for registered addiction counselors:

- (1) The registered addiction counselor shall work only under the supervision of a licensed addiction counselor or other qualified mental health professional.
- (2) The registered addiction counselor shall register his supervisory licensed addiction counselor or other qualified mental health professional with the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority.
- (3) Supervisory contact between the registered addiction counselor and the supervisory licensed addiction counselor or qualified mental health professional must be regular and documented, and shall be provided to the board.

New law authorizes the board, in its discretion, to maintain the confidentiality of an individual licensee, registrant, or certificate holder who violates a provision of existing law or new law whenever it determines that the public interest will be best served by alternatives to the disciplinary process.

New law repeals the following provisions of prior law:

- (1) Provisions relating to prevention services assistants.
- (2) Date-specific provisions that have become obsolete.

Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

(Amends R.S. 36:259(A)(20) and R.S. 37:3386.1-3387.4, 3387.5(B)-(D), (E)(intro. para.) and (1)-(3), (F), and (G)(2)-(4), 3387.6(B)-(D), (E)(intro. para.), (2), (3), (5), and (6), (F), (G)(2)-(4), and (I), 3387.10(B), (C), (D)(intro. para.), (1)-(4), (5)(b)-(d), and (6)-(8), and (E), 3387.11(B), (C), (D)(intro. para.), (1)-(4), (5)(b)-(d), and (6)-(8), and (E), 3387.12(B), (C), (D)(intro. para.), (1)-(4), (5)(b)-(d), and (6)-(8), and (E), 3387.14(B)-(E), 3388(B) and (C), 3388.1(B) and (C), 3388.2(B)-(D), 3388.3(A), 3388.4(A)(intro. para.) and (8)-(11) and (B), 3389, 3390, 3390.1(C) and (D), 3390.2, 3390.3(A)(intro. para.), (3), (5), (7), and (12) and (B)-(D), 3390.4(intro. para.) and (5), and 3390.6(A) and (B)(intro. para.) and (1)-(7); Adds R.S. 37:3388.4(A)(13)-(15) and 3390.3(E); Repeals R.S. 37:3387.10(F) and (G), 3387.13, and 3388.3(B))