



Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association

House Bill 5776

Thirty years ago, Michigan passed Public Act 421 of 1988 to license professional counselors in the state.

Today we have over 10,000 licensed professional counselors in Michigan providing critical treatment and care to hundreds of thousands of individuals suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders.

HB 5776 represents the first updates to the law since it was passed in 1988 and comes at a time when the need for well-trained mental health professionals could not be greater.

More specifically, HB 5776 would make the following changes to Part 181 of the Public Health Code (the LPC Licensure Act):

1). Codify current rules into statute

A). Scope of Practice

- The language in this part reflects the actual scope of practice (and training) of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) authorized by administrative rules promulgated by the Board of Counseling, including for diagnosis and psychotherapy.
- These proposed revisions in the statute do not result in *any* changes in the scope of practice.
- Professional counselors have been doing these activities since the statute was enacted in 1988.

B). Training standards for supervising LLPCs

- The requirement that supervisors of a Limited License Professional Counselor (LLPC) complete training in supervision reflects another codification of administrative rule promulgated by the Board of Counseling.
- This training requirement is also a national standard for supervisors, a requirement of the American Counseling Association's (ACA) Code of Ethics, and an accreditation requirement of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) for those who supervise counseling students.

C). Updated Education Requirements

- Additions to the course content requirements (Sec. 18107) also reflect changes in the administrative rules promulgated by the Board of Counseling.
- These additions update the course content areas currently required for counseling programs accredited by CACREP and were requested by LARA.
- It includes a provision for licensure for individuals who hold other degrees ("from a substantially equivalent program approved by the board") if those degrees, such as many counseling psychology degrees, meet appropriate training standards that reflect CACREP.

2). Update training standards

While training standards for LPCs/LLPCs have changed since the law was passed in 1988, these updated standards have not been reflected in the statute since it was initially passed.

The proposed changes in the statute reflect current CACREP standards.

Additionally, rather than having to continually update the statute, the bill would give the Board of Counseling the authority to update these training requirements in the future through the administrative rules process.

3). Ensure reciprocity with other states

The updated practice of counseling language in the bill reflects a model for professional counselors that was endorsed by several national counseling organizations, including the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), as part of their efforts to move toward national licensure portability for professional counselors.

In addition to the Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association, this bill is also supported by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, Spring Arbor University, the University of Detroit-Mercy, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University, all of whom have CACREP-accredited counseling education programs.