

HB 2421 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Reynolds

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-1-0

Yeas: 10 - Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Diehl, Goodwin, Javadi, Morgan, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H

Exc: 1 - Tran

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Health Licensing Office (HLO) to adopt rules to establish guidelines for the professional methods and procedures to be used by behavior analysis interventionists. Permits applied behavior analysis professional to provide outpatient treatment for mental or emotional disorder or chemical dependency, excluding methadone maintenance, to minors 14 years or older without parental consent if treatment is in their scope of practice. Requires applied behavior analysis professionals to report child abuse and to report prohibited or unprofessional conduct of another applied behavior analysis professional. Prohibits applied behavior analysis professional from practicing conversion therapy. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Gaps in current regulation of applied behavior analysis professionals
- Alignment with regulations of other boards housed in the Health Licensing Office

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires Health Licensing Office (HLO) to adopt rules to establish guidelines for the professional methods and procedures to be used by behavior analysis interventionists.

BACKGROUND:

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a type of interpersonal therapy often used in the treatment of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ABA focuses on changing behaviors by understanding what happens before and after the behavior.

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 365, creating the Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB) within the Health Licensing Office (HLO). The measure also required the BARB to establish criteria for licensing behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts and registration of behavior analysis interventionists.

House Bill 2421 A permits applied behavioral analysis professionals to provide mental health and chemical dependency treatment to minors without parental consent. The measure also aligns abuse reporting duties and prohibitions on conversion therapy with other health care practitioners.