

**HB 2421 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care**

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**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/27, 4/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Permits applied behavior analysis professional to provide outpatient treatment for mental or emotional disorder or chemical dependency, excluding methadone maintenance, to certain patients without parental consent if treatment is in scope of practice of applied behavior analysis professional. 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.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**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 the licensing of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts and registration of behavior analysis interventionists.

House Bill 2421 would permit applied behavioral analysis professional to provide mental health and chemical dependency treatment to minors without parental consent and would align abuse reporting duties and prohibition on conversion therapy with other health care practitioners.