

HB 2421 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/3

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.

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:

-1 Requires Health Licensing Office (HLO) to adopt rules to establish guidelines for the professional methods and procedures to be used by behavior analysis interventionists.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

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.