

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Version D to version J and version J to version R

CSSB 105(FIN)

"An Act relating to the licensure of marital and family therapists; relating to professional liability insurance for marital and family therapists; relating to medical assistance for marital and family therapy services; and providing for an effective date."

Version D to Version J

Section 8 – Amended

The effective date was changed from January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019.

Version J to Version N

Section 1 – Amended

Page 2, lines 16-24: The required total number of hours for the supervision of an Associate Marital & Family Therapist was corrected to 1,700 hours.

The previous version incorrectly reflected 1,500 hours as the required total hours.

Version R also clarifies that 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision conducted one or more supervisors is included in the 1,700 hours.

Section 1 - Deleted

Page 2, lines 29-31: The requirement for \$30,000 of professional liability insurance was deleted.

Insurance to cover state investigative costs is not currently available as envisioned. A national company does offer professional liability insurance but the coverage would reimburse the licensee for their investigative costs and not the state investigator costs. The idea of

professional liability insurance was to pay for state investigative costs and keep downward pressure on the state investigative costs so that the costs wouldn't be allocated amongst current licensees and increase their existing license fees.

Section 2 – Amended

Page 3, lines 5-13: Properly re-state the titles for the healthcare professions listed that are authorized to provide group supervision of an Associate Marital & Family Therapist while in training.

The titles of certain healthcare professionals were verified by the State Medical Board.

Section 4 & 5 - Deleted

Page 4, lines 8 – Page 5, line 1: Sections 4 and 5 were deleted because SB 169, which has passed the Senate and is in the other body, amends the same statutes (AS 47.07.030) previously contained in sections 4 and 5 of SB 105.

SB 169 amends statute by replacing a psychiatrist with a physician, to expand the direct supervisory capacity in providing behavioral health clinic services. As well as removing the 30% on-site requirement and replacing that by requiring a physician in person or available via a communication device.

SB 105, as amended, is fully supported by the Board of Marital and Family Therapists. Please see the two letters of support from the Board.

The bill's main objective is to add Licensed Marital & Family Therapy to the Medicaid optional services category. This will add additional behavioral health capacity and services to Alaskan, both on Medicaid and in private practice as well. The bill also clarifies the number of training hours that an associate LMFT needs for a full licensure and expands the group supervision listing to add additional healthcare professions to the list for an Associate LMFT to be supervised by.