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Official Business

Senate Finance CS for House Bill 126: Associate and Professional Counselors

Summary of Changes, version "S" to "R" April 25, 2024

- Change #1** Adds language in several other statutes that list different health care providers, their definitions, and their responsibilities, to include a reference to "associate counselors." This is found in Sections 2, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the committee substitute.
- Change #2** Changes the requirements for the Board of Marital and Family Therapy to issue a license by removing the requirement for a specific number of courses. It retains the requirement for the number of semester or quarter hours of course work.
- Clarifies that the required clinical practice can be in this state or another jurisdiction. Adds a requirement that the 100 required hours of individual supervision must be approved by the board. Adds the board's discretion to extend a license for supervised practice beyond four years because of extenuating circumstances. This is found in Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the committee substitute.
- Change #3** Extends current law that protects health care providers from civil damages to include services provided through telehealth, so long as the provider was located at a medical facility as already described in law, or a private office, and was acting within the scope of the provider's responsibilities at the relevant location. This is found in Sections 14 and 15 of the committee substitute.
- Change #4** The above changes all include changes to the bill's title. Should this bill go to the Senate Floor, it will be accompanied by a title change resolution.

Summary of Changes, version "R" to "H" May 6, 2024

- Change #5** Corrects an error in Change #3, above, in Sec. 14, regarding allowed locations where a telehealth provider's services must be provided.