

SENATE FILE 257
BY FLYNN

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements for certain professional and
2 nontraditional staff who provide disability services to
3 persons with mental illness.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF. 257

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 225C.50 CONTINUING EDUCATION --
2 TRAINING -- MENTAL HEALTH.

3 1. The continuing education requirements as provided
4 pursuant to chapter 272C for a person licensed to practice a
5 health-related profession under chapter 148, 148A, 148B, 148C,
6 150, 150A, 152, 154B, 154C, or 154D shall include information
7 relating to all of the following:

8 a. An understanding of the differences between
9 biologically-based mental illness, adjustment disorders, and
10 mental retardation.

11 b. Current modes of treatment including, but not limited
12 to, psychotropic medications, psychosocial rehabilitation,
13 residential and community support, and use of a team approach
14 in integrated service settings.

15 c. Knowledge of state and community resources related to
16 mental illness, including internship experiences.

17 d. Recognition of the family of a person with mental
18 illness as a partner in treatment.

19 e. Knowledge of the assistance and education necessary to
20 enable families of persons with mental illness to effectively
21 carry out the role of caregiver.

22 f. Application of the laws regarding confidentiality
23 requirements.

24 2. The licensing board for each profession specified in
25 subsection 1 shall establish a program to provide the
26 curriculum required or shall assist a licensee in meeting the
27 continuing education requirements.

28 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 225C.51 QUALIFICATIONS OF PROVIDERS
29 OF DISABILITY SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.

30 1. The department shall adopt rules relating to the
31 qualifications, performance, education, and training of
32 individuals who provide disability services to persons with
33 mental illness, which include all of the following:

34 a. Defining the qualifications and competencies of
35 professional and nontraditional staff which are commensurate

1 with specific responsibilities and licensure requirements.
2 The qualifications required for nontraditional staff shall, at
3 a minimum, be those required of certified addiction counselors
4 or the equivalent. An entity which employs such staff shall
5 establish a credentialing review process to ensure compliance.

6 b. Requiring supervision of nontraditional staff by
7 professional staff.

8 c. Requiring that the entity which employs staff ensure
9 that all staff demonstrate the performance and competency
10 required in the staff member's position through regular
11 assessment, supervision of nontraditional staff by
12 professional staff, establishment of ongoing improvement
13 goals, and peer review.

14 d. Requiring that the entity which employs staff provides
15 ongoing learning and educational opportunities to
16 nontraditional staff including the provision of information
17 prescribed in section 225C.50 to maintain and improve
18 competency levels.

19 2. For the purposes of this section:

20 a. "Nontraditional staff" means an individual who is not
21 professional staff but who is paid to provide disability
22 services to persons with mental illness.

23 b. "Professional staff" means an individual licensed to
24 practice under chapter 148, 148A, 148B, 148C, 150, 150A, 152,
25 154B, 154C, or 154D who provides disability services to
26 persons with mental illness.

27 c. "Staff" means nontraditional and professional staff.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill requires certain licensed health care
30 professionals (those practicing medicine and surgery, physical
31 therapy, occupational therapy, osteopathy, osteopathic
32 medicine and surgery, nursing, psychology, social work, or
33 behavioral science or a physician assistant) to participate in
34 ongoing continuing education or training which includes
35 certain prescribed information relating to mental illness.

1 The bill requires the licensing board of each profession to
2 establish an education program or assist the professional in
3 meeting the educational requirements.

4 The bill also directs the department of human services to
5 adopt rules relating to the qualifications, performance,
6 education, and training of professional and nontraditional
7 staff who provide disability services to persons with mental
8 illness.

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