

House File 497 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 497
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 235)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to payment for behavioral health services
2 provided by licensed mental health counselors and certified
3 alcohol and drug counselors under the Medicaid program.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 249A.15A, Code 2011, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **249A.15A Licensed marital and family therapists and, licensed**
4 **master social workers, and licensed mental health counselors.**

5 1. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
6 17A entitling marital and family therapists who are licensed
7 pursuant to chapter 154D to payment for behavioral health
8 services provided to recipients of medical assistance, subject
9 to limitations and exclusions the department finds necessary on
10 the basis of federal laws and regulations.

11 2. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
12 17A entitling master social workers who hold a master's
13 degree approved by the board of social work, are licensed as
14 a master social worker pursuant to section 154C.3, subsection
15 1, paragraph "b", and provide treatment services under the
16 supervision of an independent social worker licensed pursuant
17 to section 154C.3, subsection 1, paragraph "c", to payment
18 for behavioral health services provided to recipients of
19 medical assistance, subject to limitations and exclusions the
20 department finds necessary on the basis of federal laws and
21 regulations.

22 3. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
23 entitling mental health counselors who are licensed pursuant to
24 chapter 154D to payment for behavioral health services provided
25 to recipients of medical assistance, subject to limitations
26 and exclusions the department finds necessary on the basis of
27 federal laws and regulations.

28 4. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
29 entitling alcohol and drug counselors who are certified by the
30 nongovernmental Iowa board of substance abuse certification to
31 payment for behavioral health services provided to recipients
32 of medical assistance, subject to limitations and exclusions
33 the department finds necessary on the basis of federal laws and
34 regulations.

35 Sec. 2. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE STATE PLAN — MENTAL HEALTH

1 COUNSELORS. The department of human services shall amend the
2 medical assistance state plan to allow mental health counselors
3 licensed in the state and alcohol and drug counselors certified
4 in the state to be participating behavioral health providers
5 under the medical assistance program.

6

EXPLANATION

7 This bill directs the department of human services (DHS) to
8 adopt rules entitling licensed mental health counselors and
9 certified alcohol and drug counselors to payment for behavioral
10 health services provided to recipients of medical assistance,
11 subject to limitations and exclusions the department finds
12 necessary on the basis of federal laws and regulations. The
13 bill also directs DHS to amend the Medicaid state plan to allow
14 licensed mental health counselors and certified alcohol and
15 drug counselors to be participating behavioral health providers
16 under the Medicaid program.