


MEMORANDUM

DATE	May 31, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Jason Glasspiegel Central Services Coordinator
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #12 (b)(1)(a) – AB 700 (Jones-Sawyer) Public Health: Alcoholism or Drug Abuse Recovery: Substance Use Disorder Counseling

Background:

This bill would establish a career ladder for substance use disorder counseling, to be maintained and updated by the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The bill would establish classifications for substance use disorder (SUD) counselor certification or registration. The bill would require any person who engages in the practice of SUD counseling to be certified by, or registered with, a certifying organization, unless specifically exempted. The bill would establish additional standards for registrants and interns, and impose additional requirements on SUD counselors. The bill would provide authority to the department to discipline a certificate holder or registrant, and would authorize DHCS to implement these provisions by regulation.

Staff's Previous Concern

Prior to amendments made on May 30, 2017, AB 700 (Jones-Sawyer) would have exempted only licensed psychologists from the requirements under AB 700 (Jones-Sawyer). Amendments made on May 30, 2017 state:

11834.78.

(a) ~~Any~~ *(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any* person who engages in the practice of substance use disorder counseling shall be certified by, or registered with, a certifying organization pursuant to the categories established pursuant to Section 11834.77, including ~~registrants and interns, or shall be licensed~~ *registrants.*

(2) The following persons are be exempt from the requirements specified in paragraph (1):

(A) A person licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code as a psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or marriage ~~or~~ *and* family therapist.

(B) A person who is gaining supervised experience toward licensure as a psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or marriage and family therapist pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code.

Staff believes the amended language now addresses individuals receiving supervised professional experience and therefore, are no longer concerned with the bill.

Location: Assembly Floor (Third Reading File)

Status: 5/30/2017 - Read second time, ordered to third reading.

Votes: 5/26/2017 - Assembly Committee on Appropriations (12-0-5)
4/4/2017 – Assembly Committee on Health (14-1-0)

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time; staff will continue to watch AB 700 (Jones-Sawyer) unless the Board feels additional changes are required.