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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Johnson/Salazar ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/19
 LAST UPDATED 2/09/19 HB 235

SHORT TITLE Counseling & Therapy Act Definitions SB _____

ANALYST Hawker

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 New Mexico Health Care Workforce Report, 2018

Responses Received From
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)
 UNM Health Sciences Center (UNM/HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 235 amends Section 61-9A-3, the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act as follows:

- clarifies the three years of required experience in alcohol and drug abuse in order to provide supervision must be work experience;
- expands the definition of counseling-related fields to include the fields of human services and family services;
- expands the definition of substance abuse-related fields to include the fields of human services and family services;
- technical language clean up.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the *New Mexico Health Care Workforce Report, 2018* (Report), New Mexico continues to experience critical health disparities related to behavioral health outcomes:

- In 2016 New Mexico's drug overdose rate was approximately 25% higher than the U.S. national average.
- New Mexico continues to have the highest alcohol-related mortality rate in the U.S.
- Suicide mortality rates continue to be 50% higher than the U.S. rates.

The Report states though the disparities are alarming, treatment is generally effective.

Including family studies and human studies degrees to the list of counseling related fields could expand the number of behavioral health practitioners in New Mexico.

VKH/sb