



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Assembly Bill 29

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1, and Assembly
Amendment 1 to Assembly
Substitute Amendment 1**

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BACKGROUND

Under current law, among other requirements, an applicant for a clinical social worker license must complete at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical social work practice, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact. Clinical social worker licenses are issued by the Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board (Board).

The Board's current rules require, among other things, that the 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact must include training based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). However, the Board recently took the position that it lacks statutory authority to continue to enforce this portion of its rules, and submitted a proposed rule that eliminates the requirement that face-to-face client contact include training in DSM.

During the rule promulgation process, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) objected to the Board's proposed rule on the grounds that it "could result in an emergency relating to the public health, safety and welfare." As is required by statute, JCRAR subsequently introduced Assembly Bill 29 ("the bill") to support its objection.

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 29

The bill states that an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker must complete 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact that includes a number of hours, as determined by the Board, of diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on a standard diagnostic protocol approved by the Board.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 (“the substitute amendment”) requires that the 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact must include the diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on the applicable edition of DSM.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 TO ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 to the substitute amendment states that the 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact must include training in either DSM or its equivalent, as determined by the Board. It also specifies that the Board may, in its discretion, establish a number of training hours that must be in DSM or its equivalent.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Ballweg on April 24, 2017. Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Ballweg on May 22, 2017. On June 1, 2017, the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform recommended adoption of the amendments on votes of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0; and passage of Assembly Bill 29, as amended, on a vote of Ayes 8; Noes, 0.

AB:jal