STATE OF NEW YORK

5

6008--D

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 4, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BRONSON, GALLAGHER, LUNSFORD, McDONALD, BARRETT, FORREST, CLARK, STECK, SANTABARBARA, DAVILA, MEEKS, ABINANTI, BURDICK, GUNTHER, WALSH, REILLY, ZINERMAN, STERN, JACKSON, MITAYNES, O'DONNELL, SIMON, HUNTER, HEVESI, JENSEN, STIRPE -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BYRNES, SILLITTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to education requirements and authorization to develop assessment-based treatment plans for certain mental health practitioners and other mental health professionals

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 8402 of the education law, as added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended and two new subdivisions 1-a and 4 are added to read as follows:
- 1. Definition of the practice of mental health counseling. The practice of the profession of mental health counseling is defined as:
- 6 (a) the evaluation, assessment, <u>diagnosis</u>, amelioration, treatment, 7 modification, or adjustment to a disability, problem, or disorder of 8 behavior, character, development, emotion, personality or relationships 9 by the use of verbal or behavioral methods with individuals, couples, 10 families or groups in private practice, group, or organized settings; 11 and

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09892-08-2

1

2

3 4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23 24

25

26 27

28

42

43

46

49 50 (b) the use of assessment instruments [and], assessment-based treatment plans, mental health counseling and psychotherapy to identify, evaluate and treat dysfunctions and disorders for purposes of providing appropriate mental health counseling services.

2

- 1-a. Mental health diagnoses. (a) "Diagnosis" in the context of licensed mental health counseling practice shall mean the process of distinguishing, beyond a general assessment, between similar mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, impairments and disabilities within a psychosocial framework on the basis of their similar and unique characteristics consistent with accepted classification systems.
- (b) "Development of assessment-based treatment plans" in the context of licensed mental health counseling practice shall mean the development of an integrated plan of prioritized interventions, that is based on the diagnosis and psychosocial assessment of a client, to address mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, impairments and disabilities, reactions to illnesses, injuries, disabilities and impairments, and social problems.
- (c) Nothing in this subdivision or in subdivision one or four of this section shall be construed to limit the scope of mental health counseling practice as authorized prior to the effective date of this subdivision. The authority to diagnose shall be authorized only in accordance with the provisions of this article and regulations promulgated by the commissioner.
- 4. Certificate to diagnose. The commissioner shall issue appropriate certificates to diagnose in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision to those mental health counselors who have satisfactorily completed the following:
- 29 <u>(a) Standard pathway. A mental health counselor who has completed the</u> 30 <u>standard pathway shall have:</u>
- 31 (i) received a master's or higher degree in mental health counseling 32 from a program registered by the department or determined by the depart-33 ment to be the substantial equivalent thereof, which shall include the 34 completion of at least twelve credit hours of clinical courses, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. A person who has 35 36 received a master's, or equivalent degree in counseling, during which they did not complete all twelve credit hours of clinical courses, may 37 satisfy such requirement by completing any remaining equivalent post-38 39 graduate clinical courses, in accordance with the commissioner's requlations. The graduate coursework shall include, but not be limited to, 40 the following areas: 41
 - (A) human growth and development;
 - (B) social and cultural foundations of counseling;
- 44 (C) counseling theory, diagnosis, practice and psychopathology;
- 45 (D) group dynamics;
 - (E) lifestyle and career development;
- 47 <u>(F) assessment and appraisal of individuals, couples and families and</u>
 48 groups;
 - (G) research and program evaluation;
 - (H) professional orientation and ethics;
- 51 (I) foundation of mental health counseling and consultation;
- 52 (J) clinical instruction; and
- 53 <u>(K) completion of a minimum one year supervised internship or practi-</u> 54 <u>cum in mental health counseling; and</u>
- 55 <u>(ii) completed a minimum of three thousand hours of post-master's</u> 56 <u>supervised experience relevant to the practice of mental health coun-</u>

seling, of which two thousand hours shall be direct client contact hours that include diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment plans, satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commission-er's regulations. Satisfactory experience obtained in an entity operat-ing under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department, notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained prior to the effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained in a setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was obtained in good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropriate authori-zation had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experi-ence meets all other requirements for acceptable experience; or

- (b) Alternative pathway. The commissioner shall issue appropriate certificates to mental health counselors licensed prior to the effective date of this subdivision who have completed twelve credit hours of clinical courses of which a minimum of three credit hours shall include content in diagnosis in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.
- § 2. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 3 of section 8402 of the education law, as amended by chapter 210 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:
- (g) Fees: Pay a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars for an initial license [and], a fee of one hundred seventy dollars for each triennial registration period, and for the additional authorization for the purpose of diagnosing, a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars.
- § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 8403 of the education law, as added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended and two new subdivisions 1-a and 4 are added to read as follows:
- 1. Definition of the practice of marriage and family therapy. The practice of the profession of marriage and family therapy is defined as:
- (a) the <u>diagnosis</u>, assessment and treatment of nervous and mental disorders, whether affective, cognitive or behavioral, which results in dysfunctional interpersonal family relationships including, but not limited to familial relationships, marital/couple relationships, parent-child relationships, pre-marital and other personal relationships;
- 39 (b) the use of mental health counseling, psychotherapy and therapeutic 40 techniques to evaluate and treat marital, relational, and family 41 systems, and individuals in relationship to these systems;
 - (c) the use of mental health counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques to treat mental, emotional and behavioral disorders and ailments within the context of marital, relational and family systems to prevent and ameliorate dysfunction; and
 - (d) the use of assessment instruments [and], mental health counseling and psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment plans to identify and evaluate and treat dysfunctions and disorders for purposes of providing appropriate marriage and family therapy services.
- 1-a. Diagnoses. (a) "Diagnosis" in the context of licensed marriage
 and family therapy practice shall mean the process of distinguishing,
 beyond a general assessment, between similar mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, impairments and disabilities within a psychosocial framework on the basis of their similar and
 unique characteristics consistent with accepted classification systems.

1

2 3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15

16

17

20

21

22

23

24 25

26 27

28

29

30 31

32

33

36

38

40

(b) "Development of assessment-based treatment plans" in the context of licensed marriage and family therapy practice shall mean the development of an integrated plan of prioritized interventions, that is based on the diagnosis and psychosocial assessment of a client, to address mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, impairments and disabilities, reactions to illnesses, injuries, disabilities and impairments, and social problems.

- (c) Nothing in this subdivision or in subdivision one or four of this section shall be construed to limit the scope of marriage and family therapy practice as authorized prior to the effective date of this subdivision. The authority to diagnose shall be authorized only in accordance with the provisions of this article and regulations promulgated by the commissioner.
- 4. Certificate to diagnose. The commissioner shall issue appropriate certificates to diagnose in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision to those marriage and family counselors who have satisfactorily completed the following:
- (a) Standard pathway. A marriage and family counselor who has 18 completed the standard pathway shall have: 19
 - (i) received a master's or doctoral degree with a minimum of sixty credit hours in marriage and family therapy from a program registered by the department, or determined by the department to be the substantial equivalent, which shall include the completion of at least twelve credit hours of clinical coursework, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations or a graduate degree in an allied field from a program registered by the department and graduate level coursework determined to be equivalent to that required in a program registered by the department. A person who has received a master's or equivalent degree in marriage and family therapy during which they did not complete all twelve credit hours of clinical courses, may satisfy such requirement by completing any remaining equivalent post-graduate clinical courses, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. Such coursework shall include, but not be limited to:
- 34 (A) the study of human development, including individual, child and 35 family development;
 - (B) diagnosis and psychopathology;
- 37 (C) marital and family therapy;
 - (D) family law;
- 39 (E) research;
 - (F) professional ethics; and
 - (G) a practicum of at least three hundred client contact hours; and
- 41 42 (ii) completed a minimum of two thousand hours of post-master's super-43 vised experience relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy 44 comprised of direct client contact hours including diagnosis, psychotherapy and assessment-based treatment plans. Satisfactory experience 45 46 obtained in an entity operating under a waiver issued by the department 47 pursuant to section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department, notwithstanding that such experience may 48 have been obtained prior to the effective date of such section sixty-49 five hundred three-a and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiv-50 er. The department may, for good cause shown, accept satisfactory expe-51 52 rience that was obtained in a setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not obtained a waiver from the department or 53 experience that was obtained in good faith by the applicant under the 54 belief that appropriate authorization had been obtained for the experi-55

1 2

3

4 5

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19 20

21

22

23

24

25

26 27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35 36

37

38

39

40

41

42 43

44

45

46

47

48

49 50

51 52

53

54

55

ence, provided that such experience meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;

- (b) Alternative pathway. The commissioner shall issue appropriate certificates to marriage and family therapists licensed prior to the effective date of this subdivision who have completed twelve credit hours of clinical courses of which a minimum of three credit hours shall include content in diagnosis in accordance with the commissioner's requlations.
- § 4. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 3 of section 8403 of the education law, as amended by chapter 210 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:
- (g) Fees: Pay a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars for an initial license [and], a fee of one hundred seventy dollars for each triennial registration period, and for the additional authorization for the purpose of diagnosing, a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars.
- \S 5. Subdivision 1 of section 8405 of the education law, as $\:$ added $\:$ by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended and two new subdivisions 1-a and 4 are added to read as follows:
- 1. Definition of the practice of psychoanalysis. The practice of the profession of psychoanalysis is defined as:
- (a) the observation, description, evaluation, diagnosis and interpretation of dynamic unconscious mental processes that contribute to the formation of personality and behavior in order to identify and resolve unconscious psychic problems which affect interpersonal relationships and emotional development, to facilitate changes in personality and behavior through the use of verbal and nonverbal cognitive and emotional communication, and to develop adaptive functioning; and
- (b) the use of assessment instruments [and], mental health counseling and psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment plans to identify, evaluate and treat dysfunctions and disorders for purposes of providing appropriate psychoanalytic services.
- 1-a. Diagnoses. (a) "Diagnosis" in the context of licensed psychoanalysis practice shall mean the process of distinguishing, beyond a general psychoanalysis assessment, between similar mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, impairments and disabilities within a psychosocial framework on the basis of their similar and unique characteristics consistent with accepted classification systems.
- (b) "Development of assessment-based treatment plans" in the context of licensed psychoanalysis practice shall mean the development of an integrated plan of prioritized interventions, that is based on the diagnosis and psychosocial assessment of a client, to address mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, impairments and disabilities, reactions to illnesses, injuries, disabilities and impairments, and social problems.
- (c) Nothing in this subdivision or in subdivision one or four of this section shall be construed to limit the scope of licensed psychoanalysis practice as authorized prior to the effective date of this subdivision. The authority to diagnose shall be authorized only in accordance with the provisions of this article and regulations promulgated by the commissioner.
- 4. Certificate to diagnose. The commissioner shall issue appropriate certificates to diagnose in accordance with the provision of this subdivision to those psychoanalysts who have satisfactorily completed the following:
- (a) Standard pathway. A psychoanalyst who has completed the standard 56 pathway shall have:

(i) received a master's degree or higher from a degree-granting 1 program registered by the department or the substantial equivalent and 2 have completed a program of study registered by the department in a 3 4 psychoanalytic institute chartered by the board of regents or the 5 substantial equivalent as determined by the department. The program of 6 study in a psychoanalytic institute shall include coursework substan-7 tially equivalent to coursework required for a master's degree in a health or mental health field of study which shall also include the 8 9 completion of at least twelve credit hours, or the substantial equiv-10 alent, of clinical courses, as determined by the department. An individ-11 ual who has completed a licensed psychoanalyst program that did not 12 include twelve credit hours, or the substantial equivalent, of clinical courses may satisfy such requirement by completing any remaining equiv-13 14 alent post-graduate clinical courses, in accordance with the commission-15 er's regulations. The coursework shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas: 16

6

(A) personality development;

17

19

22

23

25

26 27

48

49

50

51 52

53

- 18 (B) psychoanalytic theory of psychopathology;
 - (C) diagnosis, and psychoanalytic theory of psychodiagnosis;
- 20 (D) sociocultural influence on growth and psychopathology;
- 21 (E) practice technique (including dreams and symbolic processes);
 - (F) analysis of resistance, transference, and countertransference;
 - (G) case seminars on clinical practice;
- 24 (H) practice in psychopathology and psychodiagnosis;
 - (I) professional ethics and psychoanalytic research methodology; and
 - (J) a minimum of three hundred hours of personal analysis and one hundred fifty hours of supervised analysis; and
- 28 (ii) completed a minimum of two thousand hours of supervised clinical 29 practice relevant to the practice of psychoanalysis comprised of direct client contact hours including diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assess-30 31 ment-based treatment plans satisfactory to the department and in accord-32 ance with the commissioner's regulations. This supervised clinical prac-33 tice may not begin prior to the successful completion of two years of 34 coursework that includes twelve credit hours, or the substantial equiv-35 alent, of clinical coursework, as determined by the department. Satis-36 factory experience obtained in an entity operating under a waiver issued 37 by the department pursuant to section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department, notwithstanding that such expe-38 39 rience may have been obtained prior to the effective date of such 40 section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good cause shown, accept 41 satisfactory experience that was obtained in a setting that would have 42 43 been eligible for a waiver but which has not obtained a waiver from the 44 department or experience that was obtained in good faith by the appli-45 cant under the belief that appropriate authorization had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experience meets all other 46 47 requirements for acceptable experience; or
 - (b) Alternative pathway. The commissioner shall issue appropriate certificates to psychoanalysts licensed prior to the effective date of this subdivision who have completed twelve credit hours, or the substantial equivalent, of clinical courses of which a minimum of three credit hours, or the substantial equivalent, shall include content in diagnosis in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.
- § 6. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 3 of section 8405 of the education 55 law, as amended by chapter 210 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read 56 as follows:

3

5

7

8 9

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18 19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

39

40

41 42

43

45

46

47

48

49

50

51 52

53

55

(g) Fees: Pay a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars for an initial license [and], a fee of one hundred seventy dollars for each triennial registration period, and for the additional authorization for the purpose of diagnosing, a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars.

- § 7. Subdivision 2 of section 8409 of the education law, as amended by chapter 485 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 2. Limited permits shall be for [two] three years; such limited permits may be renewed, at the discretion of the department, for up to two additional one year periods.
- 8. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 8 of section 8410 of the education law, as amended by section 5 of part Y of chapter 57 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:
- (i) Prevent a person without a license from participating as a member of a multi-disciplinary team to assist in the development of or implementation of a behavioral health services or treatment plan; provided that such team shall include one or more professionals licensed under this article or articles one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thirtynine, one hundred fifty-three or one hundred fifty-four of this chapter; and provided, further, that the activities performed by members of the team shall be consistent with the scope of practice for each team member licensed or authorized under this title [VIII of this chapter], and those who are not so authorized may not engage in the following restricted practices: the diagnosis of mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and developmental disorders and disabilities; patient assessment and evaluating; the provision of psychotherapeutic treatment; the provision of treatment other than psychotherapeutic treatment; or independently developing and implementing assessment-based treatment plans [as defined in section seventy seven hundred one of this chapter].
- § 9. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 7 of section 7706 of the education law, as amended by section 4 of part Y of chapter 57 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:
- (i) Prevent a person without a license from participating as a member a multi-disciplinary team to assist in the development of or implementation of a behavioral health services or treatment plan; provided that such team shall include one or more professionals licensed under this article or articles one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thirtynine, one hundred fifty-three or one hundred sixty-three of this chapter; and provided, further, that the activities performed by members of the team shall be consistent with the scope of practice for each team member licensed or authorized under this title [VIII of this chapter], and those who are not so authorized may not engage in the following restricted practices: the diagnosis of mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and developmental disorders and disabilities; patient assessment and evaluating; the provision of psychotherapeutic treatment; the provision of treatment other than psychotherapeutic treatment; or independently developing and implementing assessment-based treatment plans [as defined in section seventy seven hundred one of this article].
- § 10. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 10 of section 7605 of the education law, as amended by section 2 of part Y of chapter 57 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:
- (i) A person without a license from participating as a member of a multi-disciplinary team to assist in the development of or implementation of a behavioral health services or treatment plan; provided that such team shall include one or more professionals licensed under this article or articles one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thirty-nine, one 56 hundred fifty-four or one hundred sixty-three of this chapter; and

5

7

9

10

11

52

53

54

55

provided, further, that the activities performed by members of the team shall be consistent with the scope of practice for each team member licensed or authorized under this title [VIII of this chapter], and those who are not so authorized may not engage in the following restricted practices: the diagnosis of mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and developmental disorders and disabilities; patient assessment and evaluating; the provision of psychotherapeutic treatment; the provision of treatment other than psychotherapeutic treatment; or independently developing and implementing assessment-based treatment plans [as defined in section seventy-seven hundred one of this title].

8

- § 11. Subdivision 9 of section 8410 of the education law, as amended by chapter 159 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:
- 12 9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, nothing 13 14 in this article shall be construed to prohibit or limit the activities 15 or services provided under this article by any person who is employed or 16 who commences employment in a program or service operated, regulated, 17 funded, or approved by the department of mental hygiene, the office of 18 children and family services, the department of corrections and communisupervision, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the 19 20 state office for the aging and the department of health or a local 21 governmental unit as that term is defined in section 41.03 of the mental hygiene law or a social services district as defined in section sixty-23 one of the social services law on or before two years from the date that the regulations issued in accordance with section six of part Y of chap-24 25 ter fifty-seven of the laws of two thousand eighteen appear in the state 26 register or are adopted, whichever is later. Such prohibitions or limi-27 tations shall not apply to such employees for as long as they remain 28 employed by such programs or services and whether they remain employed 29 by the same or other employers providing such programs or services. Provided however, that any person who commences employment in such 30 31 program or service after such date and performs services that are 32 restricted under this article shall be appropriately licensed or author-33 ized under this article. Each state oversight agency shall create and maintain a process to verify employment history of individuals exempt 34 Provided, however, that notwithstanding any 35 under this subdivision. 36 other provision of law to the contrary, licensed mental health counse-37 lor, licensed marriage and family therapist, and licensed psychoanalyst 38 employed in a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or 39 approved by the department of mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, the department of corrections and community super-40 vision, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the state 41 42 office for the aging and the department of health or a local govern-43 mental unit as defined by section 41.03 of the mental hygiene law or a 44 social services district as defined by section sixty-one of the social 45 services law prior to June twenty-fourth, two thousand twenty-two may 46 diagnose and develop assessment-based treatment plans as long as they 47 remain employed by such programs, provided however, such licensed mental 48 health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed 49 psychoanalyst is required to hold a certificate to diagnose by the 50 commissioner two years after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-two that amended this subdivision. 51
 - § 12. Subdivision 8 of section 7706 of the education law, as amended by chapter 159 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:
 - 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit or limit the activities or services provided under this article by any person who is employed or

38

39

40

41 42

43

44

45 46

47

48

49

50 51

52

53

55

who commences employment in a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, the department of corrections and community supervision, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the 5 state office for the aging and the department of health or a local governmental unit as that term is defined in section 41.03 of the mental 7 hygiene law or a social services district as defined in section sixtyone of the social services law on or before two years from the date that 9 the regulations issued in accordance with section six of part Y of chap-10 ter fifty-seven of the laws of two thousand eighteen appear in the state 11 register or are adopted, whichever is later. Such prohibitions or limi-12 tations shall not apply to such employees for as long as they remain employed by such programs or services and whether they remain employed 13 14 the same or other employers providing such programs or services. 15 Provided however, that any person who commences employment in such 16 program or service after such date and performs services that are 17 restricted under this article shall be appropriately licensed or authorized under this article. Each state oversight agency shall create and 18 maintain a process to verify employment history of individuals exempt 19 20 under this subdivision. Provided, however, that notwithstanding any 21 other provision of law to the contrary, licensed mental health counse-22 lor, licensed marriage and family therapist, and licensed psychoanalyst 23 employed in a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of mental hygiene, the office of children and 24 25 family services, the department of corrections and community super-26 vision, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the state 27 office for the aging and the department of health or a local govern-28 mental unit as defined in section 41.03 of the mental hygiene law or a 29 social services district as defined in section sixty-one of the social 30 services law prior to June twenty-fourth, two thousand twenty-two may 31 diagnose and develop assessment-based treatment plans as long as they 32 remain employed by such programs, provided however, such licensed mental 33 health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed 34 psychoanalyst is required to hold a certificate to diagnose by the commissioner two years after the effective date of the chapter of the 35 36 laws of two thousand twenty-two that amended this subdivision. 37

§ 13. Subdivision 12 of section 7605 of the education law, as amended by chapter 159 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit or limit the activities or services provided under this article by any person who is employed or who commences employment in a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, or a local governmental unit as that term is defined in section 41.03 of the mental hygiene law or a social services district as defined in section sixty-one of the social services law on or before two years from the date that the regulations issued in accordance with section six of part Y of chapter fifty-seven of the laws of two thousand eighteen appear in the state register or are adopted, whichever is later. Such prohibitions or limitations shall not apply to such employees for as long as they remain employed by such programs or services and whether they remain employed by the same or other employers providing such programs or services. Provided, however, that any person who commences employment in such program or service after such date and performs services that are restricted under this 56 article shall be appropriately licensed or authorized under this arti-

21

22

23

24

25

26 27

cle. Each state oversight agency shall create and maintain a process to verify employment history of individuals exempt under this subdivision. Provided, however, that notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, licensed mental health counselor, licensed marriage and 5 family therapist, and licensed psychoanalyst employed in a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of 7 mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, the department of corrections and community supervision, the office of temporary 9 and disability assistance, the state office for the aging and the 10 department of health or a local governmental unit as defined in section 11 41.03 of the mental hygiene law or a social services district as defined 12 in section sixty-one of the social services law prior to June twentyfourth, two thousand twenty-two may diagnose and develop assessment-13 14 based treatment plans as long as they remain employed by such programs 15 or services and whether they remain employed by the same or other 16 employers providing such programs or services, provided however, such 17 licensed mental health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed psychoanalyst is required to hold a certificate to diagnose 18 by the commissioner two years after the effective date of the chapter of 19 20 the laws of two thousand twenty-two that amended this subdivision.

§ 14. This act shall take effect on first day of the eighteenth full month after it shall have become a law; provided, however that sections eleven, twelve and thirteen of this act shall take effect on June 24, 2022. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on or before its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.