STATE OF NEW YORK

5527--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. WILLIAMS, FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to approved courses of study or equivalent on-the-job experience for counselors

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

Section 1. Paragraph 1 of subdivision (d) of section 19.07 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by section 5 of part I of chapter 58 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

(1) The office shall establish minimum qualifications for counselors in all phases of delivery of services to persons and their families who are suffering from alcohol and/or substance abuse and/or chemical dependence and/or compulsive gambling that shall include, but not be limited to, completion of approved courses of study or equivalent on-the-job experience in alcoholism and substance abuse counseling and/or counseling of compulsive gambling. **Such approved courses of study or equivalent on-the-job experience shall include: providing trauma-informed, patient-centered care; referring individuals to appropriate treatments for co-occurring disorders; and sensitivity training. Such courses shall be updated as needed to reflect evolving best practices in harm reduction, treatment and long-term recovery. For the purposes of this paragraph, sensitivity training shall mean a form of training with the goal of making people more aware of their own prejudices and more sensitive to others.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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