STATE OF NEW YORK

5527

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. WILLIAMS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

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; treating 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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