

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -
2008**

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB1108

Hearing Date: February 20, 2008

Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Erdman)

Title: Change licensure requirements for mental health practitioners

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Placed on General File with Amendments

Vote Results:

7 Yes	Senators Erdman, Gay, Hansen, Howard, Johnson, Pankonin, Stuthman
0 No	
0 Absent	
0 Present, not voting	

Proponents:

Philip Erdman
Susan Meyerle
Daniel Ullman Ph.D M.S.
Anne Buettner

Representing:

Introducer
Board of Mental Health Practice
Nebraska Psychological Association
Nebraska Association for Marriage and
Family Therapy

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or change:

LB 1108 relates to licensed independent mental health practitioners. The bill revises the definition of "consultation" in section 38-2112 to include consultation between a licensed mental health practitioner and an independent licensed mental health practitioner.

The bill changes provisions relating to qualifications for licensure as an independent mental health practitioner in section 38-2124. In addition to existing qualifications, the bill requires satisfactory passage of an examination approved by the Board of Mental Health Practice pursuant to section 38-2122(3) (see below).

The bill has an operative date of December 1, 2008.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment (AM 1897) makes additional technical changes to inserts harmonizing references to independent licensed mental health practitioners in two additional sections: section 38-2115 and 38-2116.

38-2122. Mental health practitioner; qualifications.

A person shall be qualified to be a licensed mental health practitioner if he or she:

- (1) Has received a master's or doctorate degree that consists of course work and training which was primarily therapeutic mental health in content and included a practicum or internship and was from an approved educational program. Practicums or internships completed after September 1, 1995, must include a minimum of three hundred clock hours of direct client contact under the supervision of a qualified physician, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed mental health practitioner;
- (2) Has successfully completed three thousand hours of supervised experience in mental health practice of which fifteen hundred hours were in direct client contact in a setting where mental health services were being offered and the remaining fifteen hundred hours included, but were not limited to, review of client records, case conferences, direct observation, and video observation. For purposes of this subdivision, supervised means monitored by a qualified physician, a licensed clinical psychologist, or a certified master social worker, certified professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist qualified for certification on September 1, 1994, for any hours completed before such date or by a qualified physician, a psychologist licensed to engage in the practice of psychology, or a licensed mental health practitioner for any hours completed after such date, including evaluative face-to-face contact for a minimum of one hour per week. Such three thousand hours shall be accumulated after completion of the master's or doctorate degree and during the five years immediately preceding the application for licensure; and
- (3) Has satisfactorily passed an examination approved by the board. An individual who by reason of educational background is eligible for certification as a certified master social worker, a certified professional counselor, or a certified marriage and family therapist shall take and pass a certification examination approved by the board before becoming licensed as a mental health practitioner.

Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson