

1 S.165

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; education; certified alcohol and drug counselors; apprentice

6 addiction professionals; Agency of Human Services; Office of

7 Professional Regulation

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the  
9 Office of Professional Regulation, in coordination with institutions of higher  
10 education, to examine opportunities for certain mental health and substance use  
11 disorder treatment professionals to count credits for educational programming  
12 toward both continuing education requirements and course requirements for  
13 advanced degrees. It would also require the Agency of Human Services to  
14 catalogue the educational programs and opportunities that it offers to its  
15 employees.

16 An act relating to expanding educational attainment opportunities for health  
17 care professionals

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

3 TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS; HIGHER EDUCATION;

4 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

5 (a) In order to increase the supply of mental health and substance use  
6 disorder treatment professionals in Vermont, the Office of Professional  
7 Regulation, in coordination with public and private institutions of higher  
8 education in this State, shall identify new and existing educational  
9 opportunities available to certified alcohol and drug counselors and apprentice  
10 addiction professionals, completion of which could provide both continuing  
11 education credits toward the requirements of their current professions and  
12 credits toward the course requirements for attaining an advanced degree in the  
13 field of mental health or of substance use disorder treatment, or both.

14 (b) On or before January 15, 2023, the Office of Professional Regulation  
15 shall report to the House Committees on Health Care, on Human Services, on  
16 Education, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on  
17 Health and Welfare, on Education, and on Government Operations on the  
18 opportunities identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any new  
19 programs to be established as a result.

1       Sec. 2. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; EMPLOYEE EDUCATION  
2                   PROGRAMS

3               On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Human Services shall  
4       catalogue all educational programs and opportunities it makes available to its  
5       employees, including identifying which programs and opportunities are offered  
6       to which employees, and report those findings to the House Committees on  
7       Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and  
8       Welfare.

9       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10           This act shall take effect on passage.