

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House  
3 Bill No. 661 entitled “An act relating to licensure of mental health  
4 professionals” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Continuing Education Units; Psychologists \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:

9 § 3015. RENEWALS

10 (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the  
11 required fee.

12 \* \* \*

13 (d) Continuing education units.

14 (1) As a condition of renewal, the Board ~~may~~ shall require that licensees  
15 establish that they have satisfied continuing education requirements established  
16 by Board rule and this subsection.

17 (2) At least three continuing education units shall be in the area of  
18 systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice.

19 (3) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable  
20 and accepted as live in-person training.

1 (4) Upon application, the Board may exempt from continuing education  
2 requirements a licensee on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, if obtaining  
3 continuing education credits would be impossible in practice or a significant  
4 hardship for the licensee.

5 (5) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health  
6 professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one  
7 mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education  
8 units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the  
9 licensee is licensed under this title.

10 \* \* \* Continuing Education Units; Social Workers \* \* \*

11 Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 3208 is amended to read:

12 § 3208. RENEWALS

13 \* \* \*

14 (d) As a condition of renewal, a licensee shall complete continuing  
15 education, approved by the Director by rule, during the preceding two-year  
16 period. For purposes of this subsection, the Director may require, by rule, not  
17 more than 20 hours of approved continuing social work education as a  
18 condition of renewal. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall  
19 be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. At least three  
20 continuing education units shall be **in the area of systematic oppression and**  
21 **anti-oppressive practice.** If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental

1 health professions under this title, continuing education units completed for  
2 one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing  
3 education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which  
4 the licensee is licensed under this title.

5 \* \* \*

6 \* \* \* Continuing Education Units; Alcohol and Drug Abuse

7 Counselors \* \* \*

8 Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 3238 is amended to read:

9 § 3238. BIENNIAL RENEWALS

10 (a) Licenses and certifications shall be renewed every two years on a  
11 schedule set by the Office upon:

12 (1) ~~payment~~ Payment of the required fee; ~~and~~.

13 (2) ~~documentation~~ Documentation that the applicant has completed at  
14 least 40 hours of continuing education, approved by the Director. Synchronous  
15 virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and accepted as live  
16 in-person training. At least three continuing education units shall be in the  
17 area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice. If the licensee is  
18 licensed in one or more other mental health professions under this title,  
19 continuing education units completed for one mental health profession shall  
20 count toward the required continuing education units for the other mental

1 health profession or professions for which the licensee is licensed under this  
2 title.

3 \* \* \*

4 \* \* \* Continuing Education Units; Clinical Mental Health

5 Counselors \* \* \*

6 Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 3269 is amended to read:

7 § 3269. RENEWALS

8 Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of required fees  
9 and proof of such continuing education as the Board may require by rule and  
10 as required by this section. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits  
11 shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. At least three  
12 continuing education units shall be **in the area of systematic oppression and**  
13 **anti-oppressive practice.** If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental  
14 health professions under this title, continuing education units completed for  
15 one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing  
16 education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which  
17 the licensee is licensed under this title.

1                   \* \* \* Continuing Education Units; Marriage and Family

2   Therapists \* \* \*

3       Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 4040 is amended to read:

4       § 4040. RENEWALS

5           (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the  
6       required fee, provided the person applying for renewal has completed at least  
7       20 hours of continuing education, approved by the Board, during the preceding  
8       two-year period.

9           (1) The Board shall establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for  
10       continuing education credit. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits  
11       shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. At least three  
12       continuing education units shall be in the area of systematic oppression and  
13       anti-oppressive practice.

14           (2) The continuing education requirement shall not apply for the first  
15       renewal period. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health  
16       professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one  
17       mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education  
18       units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the  
19       licensee is licensed under this title.

20   \* \* \*

1                   \*\*\* Continuing Education Units; Psychoanalysts \*\*\*

2           Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 4060 is amended to read:

3           § 4060. RENEWALS

4           (a) Certification shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the  
5           required fee, provided the person applying for renewal completes at least 20  
6           hours of continuing education, approved by the Director, during the preceding  
7           two-year period.

8                   (1) The Director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall  
9                   establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for continuing education credit.  
10                  Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and  
11                  accepted as live in-person training. At least three continuing education units  
12                  shall be in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice.

13                   (2) The education requirement shall not apply for the first renewal  
14                  period. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health  
15                  professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one  
16                  mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education  
17                  units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the  
18                  licensee is licensed under this title.

19   \*\*\*



1                   \* \* \* Mental Health Professional Licensure; Study \* \* \*

2           Sec. 8. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE; STUDY

3           (a) Study. The Office of Professional Regulation shall conduct a study on:

4                   (1) the possibility of streamlining the licensure of mental health  
5                   professionals practicing in the State, including a review of the feasibility of  
6                   creating one mental health professional license with endorsements for specific  
7                   mental health professions;

8                   (2) whether additional regulation of supervisors for mental health  
9                   professionals in training is necessary, including a review of potential limits on  
10                  areas of mental health work a supervisor may supervise based on the  
11                  supervisor’s own work experience and education, the rate or fee a supervisor  
12                  may charge for providing supervision, and the number of supervisees assigned  
13                  to one supervisor; and

14                  (3) the barriers for individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or Persons of  
15                  Color (BIPOC), refugees and new Americans, individuals with low income,  
16                  those individuals with disabilities, and those individuals with lived mental  
17                  health and substance use experience entering mental health professions  
18                  regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

19                  (b) Stakeholder input. The Director of the Office of Professional  
20                  Regulation shall seek the input and recommendations of the following  
21                  stakeholders in completing the study:



1           (1) representatives of each mental health care profession associated  
2           with the Office of Professional Regulation, selected by their respective  
3           licensing board or by the Director;

4           (2) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

5           (3) the Commissioner of Health Equity or designee;

6           (4) representatives of mental health care professional organizations;

7           (5) representatives of health insurers;

8           (6) individuals in mental health care professions or seeking to enter  
9           mental health care professions, selected by AALV, Inc., the Vermont  
10           Commission on Native American Affairs, the Vermont Center for  
11           Independent Living, and Outright Vermont; and

12           (7) other interested stakeholders, including individuals from diverse  
13           backgrounds to represent the interests of communities of color and other  
14           historically underrepresented populations in mental health care professions.

15           (c) Findings and recommendations. On or before December 15, 2024, the  
16           Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall provide the Office's  
17           findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and  
18           on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Health and  
19           Welfare and on Government Operations.

1                   \* \* \* Mental Health Professional Supervisors Registry \* \* \*

2           Sec. 9. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISORS; REGISTRY

3                   The Office of Professional Regulation shall maintain a registry of mental  
4                   health professionals who are available to serve as supervisors for mental health  
5                   professionals in training. The registry shall begin upon passage and shall  
6                   contain a complete list by 2025.

7                                   \* \* \* Position Created \* \* \*

8           Sec. 10. CREATION OF POSITION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF

9                   SECRETARY OF STATE; OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL

10                   REGULATION

11                   There is created within the Secretary of State’s office one new Licensing  
12                   Board Administrator position in the Office of Professional Regulation.

13                                   \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

14           Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

15                   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

16

17

18           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19

20

21

\_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE