

1 **As recommended by the Committee on Health Care:**

2
3 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

9 * * * Continuing Education Units; Psychologists * * *

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

11 § 3015. RENEWALS

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

14 * * *

15 (d) Continuing education units.

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

19 (2) Continuing education requirements shall include requiring one or
20 more continuing education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-
21 oppressive practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report

1 recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required
2 pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural
3 competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's health care
4 system.

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

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

11 (5) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
12 professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
13 mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
14 units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
15 licensee is licensed under this title.

16 * * * Continuing Education Units; Social Workers * * *

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

18 § 3208. RENEWALS

19 * * *

20 (d) As a condition of renewal, a licensee shall complete continuing
21 education, approved by the Director by rule, during the preceding two-year

1 period. For purposes of this subsection, the Director may require, by rule, not
2 more than 20 hours of approved continuing social work education as a
3 condition of renewal. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall
4 be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education
5 requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing education units in
6 the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related
7 topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity
8 Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33,
9 Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in
10 Vermont’s health care system. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other
11 mental health professions under this title, continuing education units completed
12 for one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing
13 education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which
14 the licensee is licensed under this title.

15 * * *

16 * * * Continuing Education Units; Alcohol and Drug Abuse

17 Counselors * * *

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

19 § 3238. BIENNIAL RENEWALS

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

1 Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of required fees
2 and proof of such continuing education as the Board may require by rule and
3 as required by this section. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits
4 shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing
5 education requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing
6 education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive
7 practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations
8 from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts
9 and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural
10 humility, and antiracism in Vermont’s health care system. If the licensee is
11 licensed in one or more other mental health professions under this title,
12 continuing education units completed for one mental health profession shall
13 count toward the required continuing education units for the other mental
14 health profession or professions for which the licensee is licensed under this
15 title.

16 * * * Continuing Education Units; Marriage and Family

17 Therapists * * *

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

19 § 4040. RENEWALS

20 (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
21 required fee, provided the person applying for renewal has completed at least

1 20 hours of continuing education, approved by the Board, during the preceding
2 two-year period.

3 (1) The Board shall establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for
4 continuing education credit. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits
5 shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. Continuing
6 education requirements shall include requiring one or more continuing
7 education units in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive
8 practice, or in related topic areas, consistent with the report recommendations
9 from the Health Equity Advisory Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts
10 and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for improving cultural competency, cultural
11 humility, and antiracism in Vermont’s health care system.

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

18 * * *

19 * * * Continuing Education Units; Psychoanalysts * * *

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

21 § 4060. RENEWALS

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

5 (1) The Director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall
6 establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for continuing education credit.
7 Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and
8 accepted as live in-person training. Continuing education requirements shall
9 include requiring one or more continuing education units in the area of
10 systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice, or in related topic areas,
11 consistent with the report recommendations from the Health Equity Advisory
12 Commission required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 for
13 improving cultural competency, cultural humility, and antiracism in Vermont's
14 health care system.

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

21 * * *

1 with low income, individuals with disabilities, and those individuals with lived
2 mental health and substance use experience entering mental health professions
3 regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

4 (b) Stakeholder input. The Director of the Office of Professional
5 Regulation shall seek the input and recommendations of the following
6 stakeholders in completing the study:

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

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

11 (3) the Chair of the Health Equity Advisory Commission established
12 pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 252 or designee;

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

14 (5) representatives of health insurers;

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

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

