

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 830

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

MENTAL HEALTH: Revises definitions within the Mental Health Counselors Licensing Act

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1103(7) and (12)(e), relative to mental health counselors; to  
3 provide with respect to certain definitions for the Mental Health Counselors  
4 Licensing Act; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:1103(7) and (12)(e) are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
7 as follows:

8 §1103. Definitions

9 \* \* \*

10 (7) "Mental health counseling services" means rendering or offering  
11 prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, which includes psychotherapy, of  
12 mental, emotional, behavioral, and addiction disorders to individuals, groups,  
13 organizations, or the general public by a licensed professional counselor, which is  
14 consistent with his professional training as prescribed by R.S. 37:1107(A)(8), and  
15 code of ethics/behavior involving the application of principles, methods, or  
16 procedures of the mental health counseling profession. However, nothing in this  
17 Chapter shall be construed to authorize any person licensed pursuant to this Chapter  
18 to assess, diagnose, or provide treatment to any individual suffering from a serious  
19 mental illness, as defined by this Section, ~~unless that individual is under the active~~  
20 ~~care of~~ except when a licensed professional counselor, in accordance with industry



Board of Medical Examiners and is authorized to prescribe medications in the management of psychiatric illness, and only in the context of an ongoing consultation and collaboration with that practitioner.

Proposed law allows a person licensed under the provisions of present law to assess, diagnose, or provide treatment to any individual suffering from a serious mental illness when a licensed professional counselor, in accordance with industry best practices, consults and collaborates with a practitioner who is licensed by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners or a comparable state licensing authority and is authorized to prescribe medications in the management of psychiatric illness.

Present law (R.S. 37:1103(12)(e)) defines "serious mental illness" to include a diagnosis of major depressive disorder.

Proposed law modifies present law by specifying that "serious mental illness" includes a diagnosis of major depressive disorder-moderate to severe.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 37:1103(7) and (12)(e))