



In an effort to address critical shortages in mental and behavioral health professionals, the Indiana General Assembly passed two bills into law to address licensure reciprocity and the creation of three new licensure categories.

SEA59 Professional Licensing (Head R)

- **Creates two new levels of licensing – Licensed Addiction Counselor Associate and Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor Associate**
 - To be eligible for this licensure, a person must:
 - Have a Bachelor’s Degree or higher in addiction counseling or related area and meet certain educational requirements
 - Not have a violent crime conviction or a conviction in past two years that impacts person’s ability to practice competently
 - Not have a disciplinary action against their licensure in another state or jurisdiction
 - Pass a licensure examination
 - Pay a fee
 - An associate license may be renewed two times, or more with board approval
- **License reciprocity - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC), and Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC) or Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor (LCAC) are eligible for Indiana licensure if they meet the following criteria:**
 - Are licensed or certified in another state
 - Have passed a substantially equivalent licensure examination for the level of license being requested
 - Do not have a pending disciplinary proceeding in another state
 - Pay a fee
- **A licensed psychologist may be issued a temporary license based on the above criteria**

HEA1391 Social Worker Licenses (Frizzell D)

- **Creates licensure level for Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work – must be a graduate of an accredited program by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or approved by the board and:**
 - Not have a violent crime conviction or a conviction in past two years that impacts person’s ability to practice competently
 - Not have a disciplinary action against their licensure in another state or jurisdiction
 - Pass a licensure examination
 - A person can be exempt from taking the exam if they have at least two years of experience in behavioral health
 - Pay a fee
 - Master’s level social workers do not qualify and the employment and hours accrued with this licensure do not count toward eligibility as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- **Licensure exemption for Department of Child Services (DCS) contractors – an organization providing contract services to DCS may utilize non-licensed professionals if they meet certain criteria:**
 - Are nationally accredited and in good standing by the Joint Commission on Accreditation or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
 - Directly supervise the non-licensed individual with a licensed professional
 - Meet any additional requirements of DCS
- **License reciprocity – a Licensed Bachelor Social Worker, Licensed Social Worker, or Licensed Clinical Social Worker are eligible for Indiana licensure if they meet the following criteria:**
 - Are licensed or certified in another state
 - Have passed a substantially equivalent licensure examination for the level of license being requested
 - Do not have a pending disciplinary proceeding in another state
 - Pay a fee