

First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0232.01 Christy Chase x2008

HOUSE BILL 13-1104

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kraft-Tharp,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Newell,

House Committees
Health, Insurance & Environment

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS,
102 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REPEALING THE
103 REQUIREMENT THAT MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE
104 REQUIRED DISCLOSURES ORALLY AND MODIFYING THE MENTAL
105 HEALTH PROFESSIONAL PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Current law requires all mental health professionals to disclose

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

specified information to clients during the initial client contact both orally and in writing. **Section 1** of the bill eliminates the requirement that mental health professionals disclose the required information orally.

Current law also requires mental health professionals, upon initial application or renewal of a license, certification, or registration, to pay a fee to fund the costs of the mental health professional peer health assistance program, the purpose of which is to provide assistance to a professional needing help in dealing with a physical, emotional, or psychological condition that may impact his or her ability to practice his or her mental health profession. **Section 2** of the bill modifies the program as follows:

- ! Requires the director of the division of professions and occupations (director) to annually review the fee amount and adjust the fee as necessary to reflect program usage, but not to exceed \$25;
- ! Requires a designated provider that is chosen to provide the program to take into consideration, when referring a mental health professional for treatment, the cost of the treatment and whether it poses a financial hardship on the professional, and, if so, requires the designated provider to consider alternative treatment or referral to a treatment program that offers a sliding-scale fee;
- ! Precludes the director from selecting a designated provider until each mental health board has provided input, and further precludes the selection of a designated provider until the boards and director obtain input from mental health professionals; and
- ! Requires a designated provider to notify the applicable board when a mental health professional successfully completes the program, and requires the board to reinstate the professional's license, registration, or certification upon successful completion of the program.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-43-214, **amend**

3 (1) introductory portion as follows:

4 **12-43-214. Mandatory disclosure of information to clients.**

5 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, every
6 licensee, registrant, or certificate holder shall provide the following
7 information ~~verbally and~~ in writing to each client during the initial client

1 contact:

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-43-227.5, **amend**
3 (1) (a), (1) (b) introductory portion, (1) (b) (III), (1) (b) (VI), (1) (b) (VII),
4 (2) (a), and (4); and **add** (1) (b) (VIII) as follows:

5 **12-43-227.5. Mental health professional peer health assistance**
6 **program - fees - administration - rule.s** (1) (a) On and after July 1,
7 2012, as a condition of licensure, registration, or certification and renewal
8 in this state, every person applying for a new license, registration, or
9 certification or to renew his or her license, registration, or certification
10 shall pay a fee, for use by the administering entity selected by the director
11 pursuant to this subsection (1), in an amount not to exceed twenty-five
12 dollars per application for a new or to renew a license, registration, or
13 certification. The director ~~may adjust the maximum fee amount on~~
14 ~~January 1, 2013, and annually thereafter to reflect changes in the United~~
15 ~~States bureau of statistics consumer price index for the Denver-Boulder~~
16 ~~consolidated metropolitan statistical area for all urban consumers or~~
17 ~~goods, or its successor index~~ SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE FEE AND
18 PROGRAM USAGE LEVEL AND ADJUST THE FEE AMOUNT BASED ON
19 PROGRAM USAGE, BUT THE DIRECTOR SHALL NOT ADJUST THE FEE TO AN
20 AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS. The DIVISION SHALL
21 FORWARD THE fee ~~shall be forwarded~~ to the chosen administering entity
22 for use in supporting designated providers selected to provide assistance
23 to licensees, registrants, or certificate holders needing help in dealing
24 with physical, emotional, or psychological conditions that may be
25 detrimental to their ability to practice their mental health profession.

26 (b) The director, in consultation with the boards BEFORE MAKING
27 A SELECTION, shall select one or more ~~peer health assistance programs as~~

1 designated providers TO PROVIDE THE PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE
2 PROGRAM. For purposes of selecting designated providers, the director
3 shall use a competitive bidding process that encourages participation from
4 interested vendors. To be eligible for designation, a peer health assistance
5 program must:

6 (III) Evaluate the extent of physical, emotional, or psychological
7 conditions and refer the mental health professional for appropriate
8 treatment, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE COST OF THE TREATMENT,
9 WHETHER THE COST IS PROHIBITIVE FOR OR WILL POSE AN UNDUE
10 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ON THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, AND, IF SO,
11 REFERRING THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TO ALTERNATIVE
12 TREATMENT OR TO A PROVIDER OR TREATMENT PROGRAM THAT OFFERS
13 DISCOUNTED FEES BASED ON ABILITY TO PAY;

14 (VI) Agree to receive referrals from the board; ~~and~~

15 (VII) Agree to make its services available to all licensed,
16 registered, or certified mental health professionals; AND

17 (VIII) NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE BOARD WHEN A MENTAL HEALTH
18 PROFESSIONAL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PEER HEALTH
19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

20 (2) (a) Any mental health professional who is referred by the
21 applicable board to a peer health assistance program shall enter into a
22 stipulation with the board pursuant to section 12-43-223 (6) before
23 participating in the program. The agreement must contain specific
24 requirements and goals to be met by the participant, including the
25 conditions under which the program will be successfully completed or
26 terminated, and a provision that a failure to comply with the requirements
27 and goals ~~are~~ IS to be promptly reported to the board and that such failure

1 will result in disciplinary action by the board. UPON NOTICE FROM THE
2 PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT A MENTAL HEALTH
3 PROFESSIONAL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PROGRAM, THE BOARD
4 THAT REGULATES THE PROFESSIONAL SHALL REINSTATE THE
5 PROFESSIONAL'S LICENSE, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATION.

6 (4) The boards may promulgate rules necessary to implement this
7 section. The boards and the director shall seek and obtain input from
8 representatives of ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING each type of mental
9 health professional regulated under this article in the development of the
10 peer health assistance program and related rules AND SHALL NOT SELECT
11 A DESIGNATED PROVIDER UNTIL THAT INPUT IS OBTAINED.

12 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
15 7, 2013, if adjournment sine die is on May 8, 2013); except that, if a
16 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
17 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
18 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
19 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
20 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
21 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.