

By the Committee on Family Law & Children and
Representatives Wise and Lynn

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to substance abuse services;
3 amending s. 397.311, F.S.; redefining the term
4 "qualified professional" for purposes of
5 providing certain substance abuse assessment or
6 treatment services; requiring persons certified
7 to provide such services in other states to
8 meet Florida's certification requirements
9 within a specified period after employment in
10 this state; providing a grandfather clause for
11 a specified period for persons with certain
12 qualifications and experience; providing that
13 certain certified professionals are exempt from
14 meeting the additional statutory requirements
15 for a qualified professional; providing an
16 effective date.

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18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20 Section 1. Subsection (25) of section 397.311, Florida
21 Statutes, is amended to read:

22 397.311 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, except
23 part VIII:

24 (25) "Qualified professional" means a physician
25 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; a professional
26 licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491; or a person ~~who has~~
27 ~~at least an earned master's degree in a social or behavioral~~
28 ~~science in a human services discipline with a minimum of 2~~
29 ~~years' experience in the assessment or treatment of substance~~
30 ~~abuse~~ or who is certified through a department-recognized
31 certification process for substance abuse treatment services

1 and who holds, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree. A person
2 who is certified in substance abuse treatment services by a
3 state-recognized certification process in another state at the
4 time of employment with a licensed substance abuse provider in
5 this state may perform the functions of a qualified
6 professional as defined in chapter 397 but must meet
7 certification requirements contained in this subsection no
8 later than 1 year after his or her date of employment.

9 Section 2. (1) A person who holds a master's degree
10 in a social or behavioral science in a human services
11 discipline with a minimum of 2 years' experience in the
12 assessment or treatment of substance abuse may perform the
13 duties of a qualified professional with respect to substance
14 abuse treatment services as defined in chapter 397 until
15 January 1, 2001.

16 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
17 person who was certified through a certification process
18 recognized by the former Department of Health and
19 Rehabilitative Services before January 1, 1995, may perform
20 the duties of a qualified professional with respect to
21 substance abuse treatment services as defined in chapter 397,
22 and need not meet the certification requirements contained in
23 s. 397.311(25).

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect on January 1,
25 1999.

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