

CHAPTER 125
SB 220 - FINAL VERSION

2022 SESSION

22-2870
11/10

SENATE BILL

220

AN ACT relative to establishing a committee to study licensure of mental health professionals.

SPONSORS: Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Giuda, Dist 2; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Woods, Merr. 23; Rep. Knirk, Carr. 3; Rep. Weber, Ches. 1

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study licensure of mental health professionals.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to establishing a committee to study licensure of mental health professionals.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 125:1 Legislative Findings. The general court finds that:

2 I. New Hampshire has a shortage of qualified mental health professionals.

3 II. New Hampshire competes with neighboring states to attract qualified mental health
4 professionals.

5 III. Licensure requirements and licensure processes may impact the mental health workforce in
6 New Hampshire.

7 125:2 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study and make
8 recommendations relative to licensure of mental health professions under the board of licensing for
9 alcohol and other drug use professionals, board of medicine, board of mental health practice, board of
10 nursing, and board of psychology.

11 125:3 Membership and Compensation.

12 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

13 (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

14 (b) Three members of the house of representatives, at least one of whom shall be from the
15 executive departments and administration committee and at least one of whom shall be from the health,
16 human services, and elderly affairs committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

17 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the
18 duties of the committee.

19 125:4 Duties. The committee shall:

20 I. Review licensure criteria for mental health professionals regulated by the board of licensing for
21 alcohol and other drug use counselors, board of medicine, board of mental health practice, board of
22 nursing, and board of psychologists, including how such criteria relates to requirements in neighboring
23 states.

24 II. Review the licensure processes of the office of professional licensure and certification as it
25 relates to mental health professionals, including how the statutory and regulatory framework may impact
26 the timely and efficient licensure of qualified applicants.

27 III. Identify and make recommendations for joining available licensure compacts regarding mental
28 health professionals.

29 IV. Explore licensure barriers to attracting qualified mental health professionals to New
30 Hampshire.

31 V. Make recommendations, if necessary, for changes to licensure regarding the board of
32 licensing for alcohol and other drug use counselors, board of medicine, board of mental health practice,

CHAPTER 125
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- Page 2 -

1 board of nursing, and board of psychologists, including how such criteria relates to requirements in
2 neighboring states.

3 VI. Seek input from state agencies and boards, councils, and commissions within the office,
4 stakeholders, and any other person or entity the committee deems relevant to its study.

5 125:5 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
6 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the senate member. The first
7 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three
8 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

9 125:6 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
10 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk,
11 the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2022.

125:7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: May 27, 2022
Effective Date: May 27, 2022