

## CHAPTER 98-262

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 3227

An act relating to substance abuse services; amending s. 397.311, F.S.; redefining the term “qualified professional” for purposes of providing certain substance abuse assessment or treatment services; requiring persons certified to provide such services in other states to meet Florida’s certification requirements within a specified period after employment in this state; providing a grandfather clause for a specified period for persons with certain qualifications and experience; providing that certain certified professionals are exempt from meeting the additional statutory requirements for a qualified professional; providing an effective date.

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

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

397.311 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, except part VIII:

(25) “Qualified professional” means a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; a professional licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491; ~~or a person who has at least an earned master’s degree in a social or behavioral science in a human services discipline with a minimum of 2 years’ experience in the assessment or treatment of substance abuse or who is certified through a department-recognized certification process for substance abuse treatment services and who holds, at a minimum, a bachelor’s degree. A person who is certified in substance abuse treatment services by a state-recognized certification process in another state at the time of employment with a licensed substance abuse provider in this state may perform the functions of a qualified professional as defined in chapter 397 but must meet certification requirements contained in this subsection no later than 1 year after his or her date of employment.~~

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

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

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

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 28, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 27, 1998.