

HOUSE BILL No. 1477

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 25-40; IC 34-46-2-23.5.

Synopsis: Employee assistance professionals. Provides for certification of employee assistance professionals. Defines an "employee assistance professional" as an individual who provides workplace based services designed to address employer and employee productivity issues and who assists employees and their dependents with identifying and finding the means to resolve personal problems that affect the employee or the performance of the employee. Provides that all matters communicated by a client to an employee assistance professional in the employee assistance professional's official capacity are privileged information.

Effective: July 1, 1999.

Adams T, Munson

January 19, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Labor and Employment.

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First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1477



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 25-40 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** ARTICLE TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
3 1999]:

4 **ARTICLE 40. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROFESSIONALS**
5 **Chapter 1. Definitions**

6 **Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this**
7 **article.**

8 **Sec. 2. "Association" refers to the Employee Assistance**
9 **Professionals Association, Inc., a national nonprofit organization**
10 **designed to authorize state programs.**

11 **Sec. 3. "Certified employee assistance professional" means an**
12 **individual who meets the requirements of and remains in good**
13 **standing with the commission.**

14 **Sec. 4. "Commission" refers to the Employee Assistance**
15 **Certification Commission, a nationally recognized body that**
16 **certifies employee assistance professionals.**

17 **Sec. 5. "Employee assistance professional" means an individual**



1 who practices the employee assistance profession by:

- 2 (1) providing workplace based services designed to address
 3 employer and employee productivity issues; and
 4 (2) assisting employees and dependents of the employees with
 5 identifying and finding the means to resolve personal
 6 problems that affect the employee or the performance of the
 7 employee.

8 Sec. 6. "Program" refers to the Indiana chapter of the
 9 association, or other in-state, local programs, as authorized by the
 10 association, that are designed to identify employee assistance
 11 professionals who are certified by and remain in good standing
 12 with the commission.

13 **Chapter 2. Training and State Certification Programs**

14 **Sec. 1. An individual who desires in-state, local certification as**
 15 **an employee assistance professional must be identified by an**
 16 **authorized program as a certified employee assistance professional**
 17 **by the commission. To qualify for an in-state, local certification,**
 18 **the individual must be experienced, trained, and educated in the**
 19 **following areas:**

- 20 (1) Identification and resolution of productivity problems
 21 associated with employees impaired by the following concerns
 22 that may adversely affect employee job performance:
 23 (A) Health concerns.
 24 (B) Marital concerns.
 25 (C) Family concerns.
 26 (D) Financial concerns.
 27 (E) Substance abuse and other addiction concerns.
 28 (F) Workplace concerns.
 29 (G) Legal concerns.
 30 (H) Emotional concerns.
 31 (I) Other workplace concerns.
 32 (2) Selecting and evaluating available community resources.
 33 (3) Making appropriate referrals.
 34 (4) Knowledge of local and national employee assistance
 35 agreements.
 36 (5) Client confidentiality.
 37 (6) Other areas specified by the program.

38 **Sec. 2. Matters communicated by a client to an employee**
 39 **assistance professional in the employee assistance professional's**
 40 **official capacity are privileged information and may not be**
 41 **disclosed by the employee assistance professional to any person,**
 42 **except under the following circumstances:**



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- 1 (1) In a criminal proceeding involving a homicide if the
 2 disclosure relates directly to the fact or immediate
 3 circumstances of the homicide.
 4 (2) When the communication reveals the contemplation or
 5 commission of a crime or a serious harmful act.
 6 (3) When:
 7 (A) the client is an unemancipated minor or an adult
 8 adjudicated to be incompetent; and
 9 (B) the information communicated to the employee
 10 assistance professional indicates the client was the victim
 11 of abuse or a crime.
 12 (4) In a proceeding to determine mental competency or a
 13 proceeding in which a defense of mental incompetency is
 14 raised.
 15 (5) In a civil or criminal malpractice action against the
 16 employee assistance professional.
 17 (6) When the employee assistance professional has the express
 18 consent of:
 19 (A) the client; or
 20 (B) the client's legal representative in the case of a client's
 21 death or disability.
 22 (7) To a physician when the physician is licensed under
 23 IC 25-22.5 and has established a physician-patient
 24 relationship with the client.
 25 (8) When privileged communication is abrogated under
 26 Indiana law.
- 27 SECTION 2. IC 34-46-2-23.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 28 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 29 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: **Sec. 23.5. IC 25-40-2-2 (Concerning**
 30 **matters communicated by a client to an employee assistance**
 31 **professional).**
- 32 SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999] (a) Notwithstanding
 33 IC 25-40-2, as added by this act, an individual practicing the
 34 employee assistance profession before July 1, 1999, is considered
 35 to be a certified employee assistance professional, as defined by
 36 IC 25-40-1-5, as added by this act.
 37 (b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2002.



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