



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT relating to:** study of the requirements for certain credentials for  
2             providing substance use disorder treatment.

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*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This is a preliminary draft. An analysis will be provided in a subsequent version of this draft.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

3             **SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

4             (1) DEFINITION. In this section, "department" means the department of safety  
5             and professional services.

6             (2) STUDY. The department shall conduct a study of the requirements for  
7             obtaining a credential as a substance abuse counselor, marriage and family  
8             therapist, professional counselor, or social worker. In conducting the study, the  
9             department shall consult with the marriage and family therapy, professional

1 counseling, and social work examining board, the department of health services, any  
2 other state agency having a purpose related to substance use disorder treatment, and  
3 an organization with knowledge and expertise in the requirements for obtaining  
4 credentials to provide substance use disorder treatment in other jurisdictions. Not  
5 later than December 31, 2018, the department shall submit a report of its findings  
6 to the legislature under section 13.172 (2) of the statutes. The report shall include  
7 proposed changes to statutes and administrative rules based on all of the following:

\*\*\*\*NOTE: If the draft should require DSPS to study other questions, please let me  
know.

8 (a) The department's comparison of current requirements in this state for  
9 obtaining a credential as a substance abuse counselor, marriage and family  
10 therapist, professional counselor, or social worker, including requirements for  
11 supervisory positions, with the requirements for obtaining similar credentials in  
12 other jurisdictions, and with current research on recommended requirements and  
13 qualifications for persons providing treatment of substance use disorders.

14 (b) The department's assessment of whether the requirements compared in  
15 paragraph (a) are substantially equivalent, and of whether it is possible to expedite  
16 the granting of reciprocal credentials to practitioners possessing credentials from  
17 other jurisdictions having substantially equivalent credentialing requirements.

18 (c) The department's assessment of whether education, training, and  
19 experience obtained for satisfying the requirements for a credential as a marriage  
20 and family therapist, professional counselor, or social worker should be counted  
21 towards satisfying the current requirements for obtaining a certification as a  
22 substance abuse counselor.

1           (d) The department's review of the addiction counseling competencies of the  
2 substance abuse and mental health services administration of the federal  
3 department of health and human services and of evidence-based practices published  
4 by national organizations having a purpose involving the training or licensure of  
5 substance use disorder treatment providers.

      \*\*\*NOTE: This draft requires DSPS to conduct a study of credentialing requirements for providers of substance use disorder treatment and submit a report of the findings to the legislature. If you would like the draft to create an appropriation for the study, please let me know.

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**(END)**