

CICO Report April 12, 2022

by Daniel Stasi

Legislature Adjourned April 8

Highlights of Proposed Legislation

[SB 4013](#) Renew Counselor Licensure Law Passed House and Senate headed for signature by the Governor. This typically takes 60 days.

CICO has contracted a professional Springfield lobbyist to assist us. Former Rep. Elaine Nekritz.

The significant changes being proposed are:

- Extending the expiration date of the license to January 1, 2028
- Allowing all clinical supervision required to become a LCPC though live digital interaction (no longer required to be physically in person).
- Licensure board volunteers: Replace 1 LPC with a LCPC, allow the public member to be a mental health professional.
- Eliminate barriers to reinstate an expired or inactive license.

[SB2243](#)

Music Therapy License

Passed House and Senate headed for signature by the Governor. This typically takes 60 days.

Allows 18 yr old to be “professional music therapist license”

BA Degree Music Therapy

To provide psychotherapy must be supervised by a LCSW / LCPC / LMFT /

Psychologist / Psychiatrist

Plus masters level clinical professional music therapist license

CE requirement on Alzheimers Disease Education

[HB4769](#) Behavior Analyst License

Passed House and Senate headed for signature by the Governor. This typically takes 60 days.

Treatment of autism spectrum disorder through applied behavior analysis shall be covered under the medical assistance program for children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder when ordered by a behavior analyst licensed by IDFPR

Section added on requiring fingerprinting.

HB4676 Failed

Creates the **Second Chance State Behavioral Health Workforce Development Act**. Provides that each institution of higher education shall annually allow for the admission of at least one returning resident (a person who is a resident of and domiciled in Illinois, has graduated from high school or the equivalent, has been convicted of a felony by a specified court, was sentenced to incarceration pursuant to that conviction, and is no longer incarcerated) in an undergraduate or graduate academic program that will lead to the qualification of the returning resident as a behavioral health care professional. Provides that the returning resident shall not be required to pay any tuition, fee, or other charge for any class the returning resident takes if the State appropriates funds for reimbursement.

SB3070 Failed

Enhanced protection for DCFS workers

HB4387-Failed

increases Medicaid rates for mental health intensive outpatient services for children

IDFPR Variance for in Person Supervision.

In person not required. Extended to 5/31/22. New licensure law will permanently change this.

Implicit Bias Training – New CE requirement from IDFPR-1 CE every renewal. **IMHCA will be offering a new webinar** to meet this requirement. Final Rules published 2/14/22. Sent to office, linked on website. <https://www.imhca.org/State-laws-Illinois>

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training- New CE Requirement. Final Rules published 2/14/22. Sent to office, linked on website. Eblast. **ICA offers a webinar**. Details linked at <https://www.imhca.org/State-laws-Illinois>

Loan Repayment Program Act. New Proposed Rule changes -published Feb 18
Small tweaks to the Illinois Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program Act. Provides \$6,500 a year for LCPCs / LCSWs. <https://www.imhca.org/State-laws-Illinois>

Gov. Order on Expired Licenses. Gov Executive Order 95 [Issued 11/21/21](#)
Suspends certain requirements for restoration of an inactive or expired license of five years or less for professional counselors, social workers, and clinical psychologists.

Requirements for restoration of an inactive or expired license of five years or less are suspended: proof of meeting continuing education, certification of active practice in another jurisdiction, and the payment of a fee.

No Surprises Act – Federal, Effective 1/1/2022 **IMHCA Webinar**
Applies to uninsured and self-pay clients

[CMS website](#) Beginning January 1, 2022, psychologists and other health care providers will be required by law to give **uninsured and self-pay patients** a good faith estimate of costs for services that they offer, when scheduling care or when the patient requests an estimate.

[Law](#) starts page 1577)

There are efforts, petitions etc to stop compliance. [ACA](#), [AMHCA](#), [APA](#) and others. I would not expect results from these efforts to happen soon. Federal rules / laws and the Federal Government moves slowly.

IMHCA offers a webinar to help therapists understand and comply including sample forms, by Jonathan Nye, JD

<https://www.imhca.org/store-non-members>

Medicare LCPC

HR432 (55 co-sponsors) and S828 (22 co-sponsors)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

In committees.

Response on Counseling Interstate Compact

Counselor licensure portability has been a goal for many years.

Currently several national organizations including AMHCA and ACA have contracted with a Licensing Compact Company to achieve this goal. Illinois and ICA and IMHCA

and CICO supports these efforts. We support all efforts to achieve licensure portability for professional counselors.

To be part of the current compact efforts a state must have specific minimum requirements in the licensure laws and rules.

Some of the more significant requirements are:

- Home State requires a 60 credit hour degree in counseling or a related field.
- Pass a FBI fingerprint-based criminal background check.

There are other requirement but Illinois law / rules do not currently comply with these two items.

IMHCA / ICA / CICO has advocated for a change in Counselor Rules for a minimum 60 credit hour degree. We have been advocating for this for over 10 years. The Illinois Counselor Licensure Board approved this change. IDFPR has not acted on the requested changes. We will continue to advocate for the change with IDFPR.

[Link to information on the Compact](#)

[Article on the History of licensure and portability.](#)

[ACA on Counseling Compact](#)