

HB 1723 -- DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY

SPONSOR: Crossley

This bill establishes the "Dialectical Behavior Therapy Task Force", with membership as described in the bill, which includes but is not limited to two members of the House of Representatives, with one being appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader, and two members of the Senate, with one being appointed by the President Pro Tem and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than October 31, 2024, at which time it shall determine the focus and schedule of additional meetings.

The Task Force shall compile a report of its activities, which shall include specific recommendations for standards and procedures for certifications in dialectical behavior therapy. The report shall be provided to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Director of the Department of Commerce and Insurance no later than October 31, 2025, at which time the Task Force shall expire.

The Department of Commerce and Insurance shall promulgate rules for standards and procedures for certifications in dialectical behavior therapy. Proposed rules shall incorporate the recommendations of the Task Force.

This bill requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for dialectical behavioral services. Dialectical behavioral therapy services include one weekly 60 minute therapy session, telephone coaching provided by a patient's therapist, structuring of a patient's environment, weekly consultations with a team of multiple therapy providers, and weekly skills training sessions with a total duration of 120 minutes.

This bill prohibits a person or entity from claiming to perform or offering to perform dialectical behavior therapy unless certified by the Dialectical Behavior Therapy Linehan Board of Certification or any other entity approved by the Department of Commerce and Insurance to certify providers of dialectical behavior therapy. A person or entity can be fined up to \$500 if they claim to perform or offer to perform dialectical behavior therapy without being certified.

This bill is similar to HB 1123 (2023).