

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 3599

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the certification of peer specialists and peer specialist supervisors for purposes of Medicaid mental health and substance use services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 547.0003, Government Code, as effective April 1, 2025, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) In adopting rules under Subsection (a)(2) for purposes of mental health and substance use services provided through Medicaid, the executive commissioner shall ensure that the initial or renewal application of a person for certification as a peer specialist or peer specialist supervisor is denied only for a period of:

(1) three years following the date on which the applicant was convicted of or placed on community supervision for:

(A) an alcohol or drug offense punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or felony; or

(B) except as provided by Subsection (d), any other offense punishable as a felony; or

(2) except as provided by Subsection (d), two years following the date on which the applicant was convicted of or placed on community supervision for an alcohol or drug offense punishable as a Class B misdemeanor.

1 (d) The executive commissioner by rule shall provide for a
2 period longer than the period specified by Subsection (c)(1) during
3 which an initial or renewal application for certification as a peer
4 specialist or peer specialist supervisor to provide mental health
5 or substance use services through Medicaid must be denied if the
6 applicant has been convicted of or placed on community supervision
7 for an offense involving harm or the possibility of harm to a child,
8 an adult, or an animal.

9 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
10 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
11 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
12 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
13 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
14 waiver or authorization is granted.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.