



# HOUSE BILL 478: Required Experience for MH/DD/SAS QPs.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	May 22, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Dobson, S. Martin, K. Hall, Brisson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Augustus D. Willis Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Third Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 478 would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to amend the qualifications for Qualified Professionals in the mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services (MH/DD/SAS) system of care to count all years of full-time MH/DD/SAS experience toward the required number of years' experience, regardless of when the experience was obtained.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Administrative rule 10A N.C.A.C. 27G .0104 and the Medicaid State Plan state the qualifications for Qualified Professionals within the MH/DD/SAS system of care. Currently, Qualified Professionals must have either one, two, or four years of full-time MH/DD/SAS experience after completing educational requirements. The number of years of MH/DD/SAS experience required depends on the whether the level of education attained is a master's degree or a bachelor's degree and whether the degree is in a human services field.

### BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 478 would direct the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services within DHHS to amend the qualifications for Qualified Professionals that are established in rule, Medicaid clinical coverage policy, and in the Medicaid State Plan, to count all years of full-time MH/DD/SAS experience toward the number of years of MH/DD/SAS experience required based on the type of degree held and the field of study, regardless of whether the experience was obtained before or after completion of the degree. DHHS would be required to submit any necessary State Plan amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by December 1, 2017. The Commission would then have no later than six months from the date that DHHS receives CMS approval to amend the rules.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when it becomes law, and the required changes to the qualifications for Qualified Professions would not be effective until CMS approves the necessary Medicaid State Plan amendments.

*Staff attorney Jennifer Hillman contributed substantially to the preparation of this summary.*

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