



# HOUSE BILL 562: Com. Coll. Behav. Health Workforce Enhanc. Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 30, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Campbell, Huneycutt, Lambeth, Potts	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jessica Boney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 562 would direct the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (Commission) to engage in rulemaking to allow graduates from Community Colleges with associate degrees in human services fields and specified experience to qualify as an Associate Professional, a Qualified Professional, or a Qualified Substance Abuse Prevention Professional.*

## BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1(a)** would provide definitions for *Associate Professional*, *Commission*, *Qualified Professional*, *Qualified Substance Abuse Prevention Professional*, and *Staff Definitions Rule*.

**Section 1(b)** would require the Commission to implement the *Staff Definitions Rule* until revised permanent rules are adopted.

**Section 1(c)** would provide the following new qualifications, in addition to current ones, for the following:

- Associate Professional may be a graduate of a community college with an associate degree in a human services field with less than two years of experience with the population served.
- Qualified Professional may be a graduate of a community college with an associate degree in a human services field and has two years of supervised mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services experience with the population served.
- Qualified Substance Abuse Prevention Professional may be a graduate of a community college with an associate degree in a human services field and has two years of supervised experience in addictions and recovery prevention.

**Section 1(d)** would allow accumulated supervised experience in substance abuse prevention prior to the completion of a bachelor's degree to qualify for specified pathways.

**Section 1(e)** would give the Commission additional rulemaking authority.

**Section 1(f)** would direct the Commission to amend any additional rules necessary to implement this act.

**Section 1(g)** would sunset this section when permanent rules are adopted.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would be effective when it becomes law.

Kara McCraw  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578