

SUBJECT: Persons exempt from the Licensed Professional Counselor Act

COMMITTEE: Human Services — favorable, with amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Hilderbran, Naishtat, Chavez, Christian, Davila, Krusee, Maxey, McReynolds, Wohlgemuth

0 nays

0 absent

WITNESSES: For — Jane Newman, Rehabilitation Graduate Programs, State of Texas; Jan Skinner, Judy Telge, Texas Task Force for Certification for Rehabilitation Counselors/Certification for Vocational Evaluation; Ted M. Thayer, Brain Injury Association of Texas

Against — None

On — Kathy Craft, Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors

BACKGROUND : The Licensed Professional Counselor Act regulates individuals who offer to render counseling services that apply mental health, psychotherapeutic, and human development principles to individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, corporations and other institutions. The act exempts from licensing certain individuals, including publicly employed counselors, professionals licensed under other health care acts, lawyers, and Christian Scientist practitioners.

DIGEST: HB 1061 would exempt from licensing under the Licensed Professional Counselor Act individuals certified by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification or the Commission on Certification of Work Adjustment and Vocational Evaluation Specialists as long as they perform counseling consistent with the law of the state, their training, and professional code of ethics and do not use the title or hold themselves out to be licensed counselors.

NOTES: The committee amendment limited the filed version exemption for rehabilitation counselors and vocational evaluation specialists to those who perform counseling consistent with the law of the state, their training and do not use the title or hold themselves out to be licensed counselors.