

**HB 2421 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Patterson

**Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 05/10/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill, including amendments to resolve conflicts.  
(Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 3-0-1-2

**Yeas:** 3 - Campos, Patterson, President Wagner

**Exc:** 1 - Gorsek

**Abs:** 2 - Bonham, Hayden

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/26, 5/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Health Licensing Office (HLO) to adopt rules to establish guidelines for the professional methods and procedures to be used by behavior analysis interventionists. Permits applied behavior analysis professional to provide outpatient treatment for mental or emotional disorder or chemical dependency, excluding methadone maintenance, to minors 14 years or older without parental consent if treatment is in their scope of practice. Requires applied behavior analysis professionals to report child abuse and to report prohibited or unprofessional conduct of another applied behavior analysis professional. Prohibits applied behavior analysis professional from practicing conversion therapy. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of the measure

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Amendment to resolve conflicts.

**BACKGROUND:**

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a type of interpersonal therapy often used in the treatment of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ABA focuses on changing behaviors by understanding what happens before and after the behavior.

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 365, creating the Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB) within the Health Licensing Office (HLO). The measure also required the BARB to establish criteria for licensing behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts and registration of behavior analysis interventionists.

House Bill 2421 B permits applied behavioral analysis professionals to provide mental health and chemical dependency treatment to minors without parental consent, and aligns mandatory reporting requirements and prohibitions against conversion therapy with other health care professions.