

## Summary Sheet

### Concerning Continuing Professional Competency Requirements for Psychotherapists

Representatives: James Coleman

Senators: Angela Williams

#### Purpose

This bill seeks to make continuing education a requirement for those who operate as psychotherapists by 2020. The requirement mirrors the continuing professional competency requirements established for social workers, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, and addiction counselors. This bill helps maintain access to mental health professionals serving the diverse needs of all Coloradans and promotes their continuing competence to serve the public.

#### Background

Individuals who register as psychotherapists must complete a jurisprudence exam administered by the Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA). This is an open-book, online exam, which tests an individual's knowledge of Colorado law as it relates to mental health practices. There are no educational or professional prerequisites which must be completed in order to take this exam. Oftentimes individuals take the jurisprudence exam in order to register as psychotherapists and practice as mental health professionals while still fulfilling requirements to obtain licensure.

The recommendation to require continuing competencies for Registered Psychotherapists is included in the December 2018 DORA Mental Health Task Force report. The DORA Mental Health Task Force unanimously supported professional competencies that mirror the requirements for social workers, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors and addiction counselors. The DORA Mental Health Task Force was composed of representatives of the state professional associations for Addiction Counselors, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Social Workers, Psychologists and Registered Psychotherapists (all six DORA regulated mental health disciplines).

#### Support



**The Colorado Mental Health Professionals Association**

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