

FOR CCA MEMBERS
UNDERSTANDING THE TIERED-LICENSURE PROPOSAL
3/2/2018

SENATE BILL (RAISED) 405	Details	Potential Benefits
<p>Create two tiers of counseling licensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 1: Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 2: Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) - Please note; the proposed legislation would <i>not</i> affect current license holders. There would be no change to the LPC license itself or the status of any existing license holder 	<p><u>Tier 1 (LPCA) allows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Graduates to be licensed immediately after graduation and passage of exam (NCE/NMHCE) <input type="checkbox"/> Counselors to maintain a license (LPCA) while working under supervision until meeting qualifications for full licensure (LPC) <p><u>Tier 1 (LPCA) requires:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate degree with curricular requirements same as LPC. (Note that these curricular requirements were updated by Public Act 17-94, the significant legislation promoted by CCA in 2017 to enhance the coursework and fieldwork requirements needed for counseling licensure) <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical supervision averaging one hour per week <input type="checkbox"/> Verification by supervisor that graduate is working toward accruing clinical and supervision hours for the LPC <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education (CE) requirements same as LPC (15/year) 	<p>Tiered-licensure would allow for more marketability and greater job opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Professional identity and branding for professional counseling <input type="checkbox"/> Increased professional credibility among potential employers and clients <input type="checkbox"/> Keep counselors on par with other master's level clinicians in CT (Social workers have provisional license: LMSW. LMFTs are seeking an associate license this year) <input type="checkbox"/> Approximately 40 other states offer two tiers of licensure for professional counselors <p>Greater protection of the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative oversight by DPH for ethical conduct and continuing education requirements, resulting in higher quality client care

Note: Under the proposed legislation, there would be no *requirement* that practitioners obtain the LPCA prior to becoming a fully licensed LPC. A practitioner could choose to work toward full licensure without first obtaining an LPCA. Further, the proposed Tier 1 license is not intended to be a permanent status. LPCA holders would be required to demonstrate that they were working toward full (LPC) licensure.