

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

HB 1278 # 2

DIGEST

Graduate programs. Adds SB 68 which requires each state educational institution that offers a two year graduate degree program in mental or behavioral health to evaluate the graduate degree program to determine the feasibility of providing the program in a specifically structured manner to allow full-time students to complete the program within: (1) one year; or (2) five years if the program is combined with a baccalaureate degree program. Requires certain state educational institutions to offer at least one graduate degree program in one or more certain disciplines that is structured to allow full-time students to complete the program within: (1) one year; or (2) five years if the program is combined with a baccalaureate degree program. Requires certain state educational institutions to report to the commission for higher education (commission) regarding the graduate degree programs. Requires the commission to post the submitted reports on the commission's website.

- 1 Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new
- 2 paragraph and insert:
- 3 "SECTION 1. IC 21-41-18 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 4 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 5 JULY 1, 2026]:
- 6 **Chapter 18. Graduate Programs in Mental or Behavioral**
- 7 **Health**
- 8 **Sec. 1. This chapter does not apply to Ivy Tech Community**
- 9 **College or Vincennes University.**
- 10 **Sec. 2. Each state educational institution that offers a two (2)**
- 11 **year graduate degree program in mental or behavioral health shall**
- 12 **evaluate the graduate degree program to determine the feasibility,**
- 13 **if any, of providing the graduate degree program in a specifically**
- 14 **structured manner to allow a full-time student to complete the**
- 15 **graduate degree within:**
- 16 **(1) one (1) year; or**
- 17 **(2) five (5) years if the graduate degree program is combined**
- 18 **with a baccalaureate degree program.**
- 19 **Sec. 3. Not later than July 1, 2028, each state educational**
- 20 **institution shall offer at least one (1) graduate degree program in**
- 21 **one (1) or more of the following disciplines that is specifically**
- 22 **structured to allow a full-time student to complete the graduate**

degree as described in section 2(1) or 2(2) of this chapter:

- (1) Social work.
- (2) Clinical addiction counseling.
- (3) Mental health counseling.
- (4) Marriage and family therapy.
- (5) School counseling.
- (6) Counseling.
- (7) Psychology.

Sec. 4. (a) Not later than November 1, 2028, each state educational institution shall report to the commission for higher education, in a form prescribed by the commission for higher education, information regarding each graduate degree program that the state educational institution is offering in compliance with section 3 of this chapter.

(b) Not later than November 1, 2032, each state educational institution shall report to the commission for higher education, in a form prescribed by the commission for higher education, the following information for each graduate degree program described in section 3 of this chapter offered by the state educational institution:

- (1) For each of the immediately preceding four (4) academic years, a description of each graduate degree program.
- (2) The estimated student cost savings of the graduate degree program.
- (3) For a graduate degree program that allows completion within one (1) year, the number of students:
 - (A) enrolled in the graduate degree program; and
 - (B) who completed the graduate degree program on time;
 for each of the immediately preceding four (4) academic years.
- (4) For a graduate degree program combined with a baccalaureate degree program that allows for completion within five (5) years, the number of students:
 - (A) enrolled in the graduate degree program; and
 - (B) who completed or are on track to complete the graduate degree program on time;
 for each of the immediately preceding four (4) academic years.
- (5) Any other information requested by the commission for higher education.

1 (c) The commission for higher education shall post the reports
2 submitted under this section on the commission for higher
3 education's website.

4 Sec. 5. The commission for higher education may consider
5 graduate degrees described in section 3 of this chapter completed
6 within the time frame described in section 2 of this chapter for the
7 purposes of the higher educational operating funding outcomes
8 based formula created by the commission for higher education
9 under IC 21-18-16-2.

10 Sec. 6. This chapter expires July 1, 2033."

11 Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to HB 1278 as printed January 20, 2026.)