



COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, to which was referred House Bill No. 1278, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

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**

1 **one (1) or more of the following disciplines that is specifically
2 structured to allow a full-time student to complete the graduate
3 degree as described in section 2(1) or 2(2) of this chapter:**

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

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

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

23 **(1) For each of the immediately preceding four (4) academic
24 years, a description of each graduate degree program.**

25 **(2) The estimated student cost savings of the graduate degree
26 program.**

27 **(3) For a graduate degree program that allows completion
28 within one (1) year, the number of students:**

29 **(A) enrolled in the graduate degree program; and**

30 **(B) who completed the graduate degree program on time;
31 for each of the immediately preceding four (4) academic
32 years.**

33 **(4) For a graduate degree program combined with a
34 baccalaureate degree program that allows for completion
35 within five (5) years, the number of students:**

36 **(A) enrolled in the graduate degree program; and**

37 **(B) who completed or are on track to complete the
38 graduate degree program on time;**

39 **for each of the immediately preceding four (4) academic
40 years.**

41 **(5) Any other information requested by the commission for
42 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.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass .

Committee Vote: Yeas 10, Nays 2.

Senator Charbonneau, Chairperson