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DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

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Public Safety and Administration Oversight Committee on Pensions

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HB1210 – Worker's Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairments – Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical

Currently only a licensed psychologist or qualified physician may perform the required evaluations and generate the related report that must occur in connection with a Worker's Compensation claim that involves permanent impairments to behavior and mental disorders. HB 1210 authorizes a licensed certified social worker-clinical (LCSW-C) to perform these evaluations and provide the related comprehensive report to the Worker's Compensation Commission. In doing so the licensed certified social worker-clinical must comply with the requirements of expert witnesses as set forth by the Worker's Compensation Commission.

HB1210 expands the practice area of these highly qualified and trained mental health providers, LCSW-C, allowing them to evaluate only those injuries that are related to mental and behavior health issues. Certified social workers have completed two years of supervised social work practice. A licensed certified social worker-clinical (LCSW-C) is an individual licensed by the State Board of Social Work Examiners to practice clinical social work. Practicing social work means to apply the theories, knowledge, procedures, methods, and ethics obtained through the completion of a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited program in social work or the equivalent approved by the Council on Social Work Education.

Through the passing of HB 1210, these professionals are enabled to enhance social functioning of individuals suffering permanent mental or behavioral impairments.

Susse A. McComos

PLEASE ENTER A FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB1210.

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