

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017**

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**HOUSE BILL 478  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/5/17  
Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 5/18/17**

Short Title: Required Experience for MH/DD/SAS QPs.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 27, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW ALL YEARS OF FULL-TIME MENTAL HEALTH,  
2 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES  
3 (MH/DD/SAS) EXPERIENCE TO APPLY TO THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED  
4 FOR MH/DD/SAS QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS.  
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and its  
8 Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services  
9 shall amend the qualifications for Qualified Professionals within the mental health,  
10 developmental disability, and substance abuse services (MH/DD/SAS) system of care, as  
11 defined in rule, clinical care policies for the Medicaid program, and the North Carolina  
12 Medicaid State Plan. The amendments to the qualifications for Qualified Professionals shall  
13 ensure that the years of full-time MH/DD/SAS experience required by the rule may be obtained  
14 either before or after obtaining the required educational degree. No later than December 1,  
15 2017, any State Plan amendment necessary to effect these changes shall be submitted by DHHS  
16 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Commission for Mental  
17 Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services shall amend the rules as  
18 soon as possible but no later than six months after the date that DHHS has received CMS  
19 approval of the necessary Medicaid State Plan amendments.

20 **SECTION 2.** Any changes to clinical coverage policies and any changes to rules  
21 adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the qualifications for  
22 Qualified Professionals required under Section 1 of this act shall not become effective until  
23 DHHS has received CMS approval of the State Plan amendment required by Section 1 of this  
24 act.

25 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

