**02-514**

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**BOARD OF COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS LICENSURE**

2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **02-514**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional & Occupational Regulation, **Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure**

CONTACT INFORMATION for thE agency **RULEMAKING LIAISON**: Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-441-7153, [penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov](mailto:penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None.

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY:**

Expected rulemaking will be to implement legislation governing telehealth services. A review for conformance with statutes and current rules will be conducted and updated as may be necessary, including an update to discontinue the use of the terms “handicap,” “handicapped” and “hearing impaired” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 2557, sub-§2.

**CHAPTER 1:** **Definitions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which defines terms used in the board’s rules.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 1-A:** **Advisory Rulings**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 M.R.S. §§ 8051, 9001(4).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which describes a procedure for the issuance of advisory rulings.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 2:** **Licensed Professional Counselors**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853(2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which defines the scope of practice for the professional counselor license and sets forth licensure requirements.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 3:** **Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which defines the scope of practice for the professional clinical counselor license and sets forth licensure requirements.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 4**: **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which defines the scope of practice for the marriage and family therapist license and sets forth licensure requirements.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 5**: **Licensed Pastoral Counselors**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which defines the scope of practice for the pastoral counselor license and sets forth licensure requirements.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: Not expected.

**CHAPTER 5-A**: **Registered Counselors**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which sets forth provisions relating to the scope of practice and obligations of registered counselors.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 6:** **Applications / Applicants Licensed in Another Jurisdiction**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13857, 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which sets forth general requirements relating to applications for licensure, applicants trained in foreign countries, and applicants licensed in other jurisdictions.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 6-A:** **Licensure by Endorsement.**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § §§ 13853(2), 13857, 13858(8); 10 M.R.S. § 8003-H

PURPOSE: This chapter describes the pathway for Maine licensure for applicants with an active license in a U.S. jurisdiction that maintains licensing requirements that are substantially similar to Maine’s requirements. This rule implements LD 149 (enacted as P.L. 2021, c. 167 and codified at 10 M.R.S. § 8003-H), An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions and LD 2035 (P.L. 2021, c. 642), An Act to Make Changes to the Laws Regarding Licensure of Certain Individuals from Other Jurisdictions.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 7:** **License Renewal; Inactive Status**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8), 13864; 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(D).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which describes the board’s application and renewal process.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 7-A**: **Continuing Education**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8), 13860(2).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which makes peer consultation an optional, as opposed to mandatory, component of continuing education, and also requires continuing education in domestic violence, substance abuse or emotional trauma.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 8-A: Code of Ethics**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which contains the code of ethics to be followed by licensed and registered counselors.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 8-B**: **Client Bill of Rights; Disclosure Statements**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 13853 (2), 13853(11), 13858(8).

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise this chapter, which contains the client bill of rights and counselor disclosure statements adopted by the board and requires counselors to distribute these documents to clients in hand at the commencement of the counseling relationship.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and licensees, members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 13868

PURPOSE: To adopt rules to establish standards of practice and appropriate restrictions for the various types and forms of telehealth services.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A