Changes in Title 38:10-7 are proposed to clarify the existing language and make the language regarding the LADC/MH more consistent with the language found in Title 59 Law. There is also a change in the application fee for the LADC/MH. In rules, the fee was determined to be $140.00 for the application and is proposed to be raised to $175.00 to be consistent with other application fees.

The person most likely affected are the counselor candidates that wish to receive the mental health designation with their LADC.

Consumers will be benefitted by understanding that Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors are also capable to provide mental health counseling.

The Board would benefit by having more consistency between language in law and rules.

Counselor candidates will have a better understanding of the scope of practice related to mental health and substance abuse issues.

Employing agencies will have a clearer understanding of the scope of practice with new people coming into the field.

Implementation of these changes will have a minimal financial impact to candidates applying for the LADC/MH credential in increased fee for application. There is no economic impact on any political subdivision or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing rules.

The proposed rule changes will not have any adverse economic effect on small business.

There is no less costly or non-regulatory method or less intrusive method for achieving the purpose of these rule changes.