The proposed rule change in Subchapter 13 will require candidates that have been in the licensure process for more than one year to obtain at least three clock hours of ethics each year until licensed or certified. This rule also requires, for each year of candidacy after the first year, to obtain three clock hours of continuing education in addition to the three hours of ethics.

The persons most likely affected will be the counselor candidates that will be required to obtain continuing education.

Consumers could benefit when candidates take additional training and remain current in topics affecting the counselor/consumer issues and relationships.

The Board could benefit by having less complaints filed as candidates stay aware of current ethics and other counseling issues.

Candidates will be responsible to stay informed regarding rapidly changing modalities, interventions and ethics in the substance abuse field.

Employing agencies may be affected as candidates strive to complete continuing education and/or if agencies pay for staff continuing education.

Implementation of these changes will have no economic impact on any political subdivision or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rules.

The proposed rule change will have no adverse economic impact on small business.

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