

A bill for an act

relating to economic development; providing certification for rehabilitation counselors for the blind; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 248.07, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 248.07, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 14b. **Certification and qualifications of rehabilitation counselors for the blind.** (a) No person shall provide rehabilitation counseling services for the blind or hold themselves out as a qualified rehabilitation counselor for the blind unless the person is certified as a rehabilitation counselor by the director of State Services for the Blind.

(b) A rehabilitation counselor for the blind is not a mental health practitioner.

(c) A certified rehabilitation counselor for the blind shall have the following qualifications:

(1) a bachelor's degree from an educational program approved by the director of State Services for the Blind;

(2) six months of intensive training under supervision from an adjustment-to-blindness center meeting the criteria in subdivision 16, paragraph (a); and

(3) completion of additional appropriate training as approved by the director of State Services for the Blind.

(d) Each certified rehabilitation counselor for the blind shall, in the period since the counselor's certificate was issued or last renewed, complete continuing competency requirements as set forth by the director of State Services for the Blind.

H.F. No. 737, as introduced - 86th Legislative Session (2009-2010) [09-1165]

- 2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2009, for persons engaged
- 2.2 in rehabilitation counseling for the blind after that date.