

Senate Bill 491

By: Senator Smith of the 25th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-10A-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 licensing requirements for professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family
3 therapists, so as to provide an exemption from such requirements for certain persons
4 providing certain disaster relief services; to provide for related matters; to provide an
5 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 43-10A-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing
9 requirements for professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists,
10 is amended by striking the word "and" at the end of paragraph (17) of subsection (b); by
11 replacing the period at the end of paragraph (18) of subsection (b) with the symbol and word
12 "; and"; and by adding at the end of subsection (b) a new paragraph (19) to read as follows:

13 "(19) Professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists who
14 are:

15 (A) Duly and currently licensed to provide professional services within their area of
16 expertise as defined by the applicable laws of their state or territory of residence; and

17 (B) Enlisted, screened, and assigned by the American Red Cross to provide such
18 services with a defined disaster area to alleviate the emotional, mental, or behavioral
19 impact on persons or groups of persons affected by a disaster, provided that such
20 services are provided without cost to the recipients of the services."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
23 without such approval.

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SECTION 3.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.