

House Bill 845

By: Representative Marin of the 96th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, so as to provide
3 for temporary permits for foreign-born professional counselors for whom English is a second
4 language to practice as professional counselors; to establish a time limit for such temporary
5 permits; to require persons issued temporary permits to practice as professional counselors
6 only under direction and supervision; to limit the practice of persons issued temporary
7 permits; to establish a date for repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professional
12 counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, is amended by revising Code
13 Section 43-10A-9, relating to examinations, as follows:

14 "43-10A-9.

15 (a) The board shall provide for the conduct of examinations for licensure in each specialty
16 at least twice a year. Examinations may be written, oral, experiential, or any combination
17 thereof and shall deal with such theoretical and applied fields as prescribed by the board.
18 The examinee's name shall not be disclosed to any person grading the examination until
19 that grading is complete.

20 (b) A foreign-born resident of this state shall be eligible for a temporary permit to practice
21 as a professional counselor if he or she:

22 (1) Possesses a license to practice as a professional counselor in a foreign country and
23 has practiced professionally in such country;

24 (2) Speaks and writes English as a second language; and

25 (3) Meets the education, experience, and training requirements in Code Section
26 43-10A-11.

27 Such temporary permit shall be valid for two years or until a license is issued, whichever
28 first occurs, and shall not be renewable. A person issued a temporary permit shall practice
29 only under direction and under the supervision of a supervisor as defined in paragraph (16)
30 of Code Section 43-10A-3 and shall limit his or her practice primarily to persons with
31 whom he or she shares a language fluency."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 The subsection (a) designation and subsection (b) of Code Section 43-10A-9 enacted by
34 Section 1 of this Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2013.

35 **SECTION 3.**

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