

House Bill 734

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Meadows of the 5<sup>th</sup>, England of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, and others

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 revise  
3 a definition; to revise provisions relating to requirements for licensure in social work; to  
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professional  
8 counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, is amended in Code Section  
9 43-10A-3, relating to definitions, by revising paragraph (13) as follows:

10 "(13) 'Social work' means that specialty which helps individuals, marriages, families,  
11 couples, groups, or communities to enhance or restore their capacity for functioning: by  
12 assisting in the obtaining or improving of tangible social and health services; by  
13 providing psychosocial evaluations, in-depth analyses and ~~determinations~~ diagnoses of  
14 the nature and status of emotional, cognitive, mental, behavioral, and interpersonal  
15 problems or conditions; and by counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques, casework,  
16 social work advocacy, psychotherapy, and treatment in a variety of settings which include  
17 but are not limited to mental and physical health facilities, child and family service  
18 agencies, or private practice."

19 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

20 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 43-10A-12, relating to requirements for  
21 licensure in social work, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

22 "(c) Licensed clinical social workers may practice all authorized services of licensed  
23 master's social workers and may: provide supervision and direction; provide psychosocial  
24 evaluation through data collection and analyses to ~~determine~~ diagnose the nature of an  
25 individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or

26 conditions; provide counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, marriages, couples,  
27 families, and groups; interpret the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend  
28 and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups in  
29 such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care  
30 facilities, and schools; and provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy,  
31 education, training, prevention, and intervention services in situations threatened or  
32 affected by social, intrapersonal, or interpersonal stress or health impairment."

33 **SECTION 3.**

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