

House Bill 734

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Meadows of the 5th, England of the 108th, Powell of the 171st, Neal of the 1st, 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."

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SECTION 3.

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.