Senate Bill 71

By: Senators Smith of the 25th, Squires of the 5th and Butler of the 55th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

"(19) Persons currently licensed to practice a specialty in another jurisdiction and who are practicing such specialty within a defined disaster area in order to alleviate the impact on persons affected by a disaster as defined in paragraph (1) of Code Section 38-3-91 or a state of emergency as defined in paragraph (7) of Code Section 38-3-3, but only when such specialty services are provided without cost to the recipients, and only for a maximum of 30 consecutive days following a disaster or a state of emergency."

SECTION 2.

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

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.