

House Bill 76

By: Representatives Powell of the 33rd, Oliver of the 82nd, Ehrhart of the 36th, Bennett of the 94th, Hawkins of the 27th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to licensing provisions regarding professional counselors, social workers, and
3 marriage and family therapists, so as to revise provisions relating to education, experience,
4 and training requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy; to provide for related
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 licensing provisions regarding professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and
10 family therapists, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-10A-13, relating
11 to requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy, as follows:

12 "(a) The education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in marriage and
13 family therapy are as follows:

14 (1) For licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist, a master's degree ~~in~~ from
15 a program in marriage and family therapy or a program including a master's degree and
16 additional post-master's degree coursework, both of which programs shall include ~~three~~

17 ~~courses in marriage and family studies, three courses in marriage and family therapy,~~
 18 ~~three courses in human development, one course in marriage and family therapy ethics,~~
 19 ~~and one course in research coursework as set forth on July 1, 2023, by the Commission~~
 20 ~~on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or from any program~~
 21 ~~accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy~~
 22 ~~Education, which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution;~~
 23 ~~completion of a one-year practicum in marriage and family therapy under supervision~~
 24 ~~before or after the granting of the master's degree, which practicum shall include 500~~
 25 ~~hours of direct clinical experience in marriage and family therapy and 100 hours of~~
 26 ~~supervision of such experience meet the minimum number of direct clinical contact hours~~
 27 ~~and supervision hours as set forth on July 1, 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation~~
 28 ~~for Marriage and Family Therapy Education; and registration with the board of an~~
 29 ~~acceptable contract for obtaining the post-master's experience under direction and~~
 30 ~~supervision required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist; and~~

31 (2) For licensure as a marriage and family therapist:

32 (A) Licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist and two years of full-time
 33 post-master's experience or its equivalent in the practice of marriage and family therapy
 34 under direction and supervision as an associate marriage and family therapist, which
 35 shall include a minimum of ~~2,000~~ 1,500 hours of direct clinical experience and 100
 36 hours of supervision of such experience and which shall be completed within a period
 37 of not less than two years and not more than five years;

38 (B) A master's degree from:

39 (i) ~~A~~ a program in ~~any specialty~~ marriage and family therapy;

40 (ii) A program in clinical counseling, clinical social work, any allied profession,
 41 applied child and family development, or applied sociology;; ~~provided, however, that,~~
 42 on and after July 1, 2025, any such degree program or additional post-master's degree

43 coursework shall include courses equivalent to those of a marriage and family therapy
 44 degree program; or
 45 (iii) Any from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
 46 Marriage and Family Therapy Education,
 47 which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution, and shall
 48 include, as part of the degree program or as additional post-master's degree coursework,
 49 at least two courses in marriage and family studies, two courses in marriage and family
 50 therapy, and, after July 1, 2000, one course in marriage and family therapy ethics; and
 51 three years' full-time post-master's experience or its equivalent under direction and
 52 supervision in the practice of any specialty, which shall include a minimum of 2,500
 53 1,800 hours of direct clinical experience, one year of which may have been in an
 54 approved practicum before or after the granting of the master's degree which shall
 55 include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience meet the minimum
 56 number of direct clinical contact hours and supervision hours as set forth on July 1,
 57 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
 58 Education, and two years of which shall have been in the practice of marriage and
 59 family therapy which shall include a minimum of 2,000 1,500 hours of direct clinical
 60 experience, and 200 hours of supervision of such experience all of which shall be
 61 completed within a period of not less than three years and not more than five years; or
 62 (C) A doctorate degree from:
 63 (i) A a program in any specialty marriage and family therapy;
 64 (ii) A program in clinical counseling, clinical social work, any allied profession,
 65 applied child and family development, or applied sociology; provided, however, that,
 66 on and after July 1, 2025, any such doctorate degree program or additional
 67 post-master's degree coursework shall include courses equivalent to those of a
 68 marriage and family therapy degree program; or

69 (iii) Any from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
70 Marriage and Family Therapy Education,
71 which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution; ~~and shall~~
72 ~~include, as part of a master's or doctoral degree program or as additional postgraduate~~
73 ~~degree coursework, at least two courses in marriage and family studies, two courses in~~
74 ~~marriage and family therapy, and, after July 1, 2000, one course in marriage and family~~
75 ~~therapy ethics; two years' full-time post-master's experience under direction in the~~
76 practice of marriage and family therapy which shall include a minimum of ~~1,500~~ 1,000
77 hours of direct clinical experience, one year of which may have been in an approved
78 internship program before or after the granting of the doctoral degree, which shall
79 ~~include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience~~ meet the minimum
80 number of direct clinical contact hours and supervision hours as set forth on July 1,
81 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
82 Education, and one year of which shall have been full-time post-master's experience,
83 which shall include a minimum of ~~1,000~~ 700 hours of direct clinical experience; and
84 100 hours of supervision of such experience in the practice of marriage and family
85 therapy, 50 hours of which may have been obtained while a student or intern in an
86 accredited doctoral program."

87 **SECTION 2.**

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