

14

SECTION 2.

15 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-10A-13, relating
16 to requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy, as follows:

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

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

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

37 (A) Licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist and two years of full-time
38 post-master's experience or its equivalent in the practice of marriage and family therapy
39 under direction and supervision as an associate marriage and family therapist, which
40 shall include a minimum of ~~2,000~~ 1,500 hours of direct clinical experience and 100

41 hours of supervision of such experience and which shall be completed within a period
 42 of not less than two years and not more than five years;

43 (B) A master's degree from:

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

45 ~~(ii) A program in clinical counseling, clinical social work, any allied profession,~~
 46 ~~applied child and family development, or applied sociology;~~ provided, however, that,
 47 on and after July 1, 2025, any such degree program or additional post-master's degree
 48 coursework shall include courses equivalent to those of a marriage and family therapy
 49 degree program; or

50 ~~(iii) Any from any~~ program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
 51 Marriage and Family Therapy Education,

52 which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution, ~~and shall~~
 53 ~~include, as part of the degree program or as additional post-master's degree coursework,~~
 54 ~~at least two courses in marriage and family studies, two courses in marriage and family~~
 55 ~~therapy, and, after July 1, 2000, one course in marriage and family therapy ethics; and~~
 56 three years' full-time post-master's experience or its equivalent under direction and
 57 supervision in the practice of any specialty, which shall include a minimum of ~~2,500~~
 58 1,800 hours of direct clinical experience, one year of which may have been in an
 59 approved practicum before or after the granting of the master's degree which shall
 60 ~~include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience~~ meet the minimum
 61 number of direct clinical contact hours and supervision hours as set forth on July 1,
 62 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
 63 Education, and two years of which shall have been in the practice of marriage and
 64 family therapy which shall include a minimum of ~~2,000~~ 1,500 hours of direct clinical
 65 experience, and 200 hours of supervision of such experience all of which shall be
 66 completed within a period of not less than three years and not more than five years; or

67 (C) A doctorate degree from:

68 (i) A a program in any specialty marriage and family therapy;
69 (ii) A program in clinical counseling, clinical social work, any allied profession,
70 applied child and family development, or applied sociology; provided, however, that,
71 on and after July 1, 2025, any such doctorate degree program or additional
72 post-master's degree coursework shall include courses equivalent to those of a
73 marriage and family therapy degree program; or
74 (iii) Any from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
75 Marriage and Family Therapy Education,
76 which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution; and shall
77 include, as part of a master's or doctoral degree program or as additional postgraduate
78 degree coursework, at least two courses in marriage and family studies, two courses in
79 marriage and family therapy, and, after July 1, 2000, one course in marriage and family
80 therapy ethics; two years' full-time post-master's experience under direction in the
81 practice of marriage and family therapy which shall include a minimum of 1,500 1,000
82 hours of direct clinical experience, one year of which may have been in an approved
83 internship program before or after the granting of the doctoral degree, which shall
84 include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience meet the minimum
85 number of direct clinical contact hours and supervision hours as set forth on July 1,
86 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
87 Education, and one year of which shall have been full-time post-master's experience,
88 which shall include a minimum of 1,000 700 hours of direct clinical experience; and
89 100 hours of supervision of such experience in the practice of marriage and family
90 therapy, 50 hours of which may have been obtained while a student or intern in an
91 accredited doctoral program."

92

SECTION 3.

93 Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees,
94 is amended by revising Code Section 45-5-1, relating to when offices deemed vacated, filling
95 vacancy, notice, and appeal, as follows:

96 "45-5-1.

97 (a) All offices in the state shall be vacated:

98 (1) By the death of the incumbent;

99 (2) By resignation, when accepted;

100 (3) By decision of a competent tribunal declaring the office vacant;

101 (4) By voluntary act or misfortune of the incumbent whereby he or she is placed in any
102 of the specified conditions of ineligibility to office;

103 (5) By the incumbent ceasing to be a resident of the state or of the county, circuit, or
104 district for which he or she was elected;

105 (6) By failing to apply for and obtain commissions or certificates or by failing to qualify
106 or give bond, or both, within the time prescribed by the laws and Constitution of Georgia;
107 or

108 (7) By abandoning the office or ceasing to perform its duties, or both.

109 (b) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in any office in the state, the officer or body
110 authorized to fill the vacancy or call for an election to fill the vacancy shall do so without
111 the necessity of a judicial determination of the occurrence of the vacancy. Before doing
112 so, however, the officer or body shall give at least ten days' notice to the person whose
113 office has become vacant, except that such notice shall not be required in the case of a
114 vacancy caused by death, final conviction of a felony, or written resignation. The decision
115 of the officer or body to fill the vacancy or call an election to fill the vacancy shall be
116 subject to an appeal to the superior court; and nothing in this subsection shall affect any
117 right of any person to seek a judicial determination of the eligibility of any person holding

118 office in the state. The provisions of this subsection shall apply both to vacancies
119 occurring under this Code section and to vacancies occurring under other laws of this state.
120 (c) Any Governor appointed seat of an executive branch board, commission, or council
121 shall be filled by appointment of the Governor as provided by law when the seat becomes
122 vacant upon term expiration or when declared vacant by the Governor pursuant to this
123 Code section."

124

SECTION 4.

125 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become
126 effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.
127 (b) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

128

SECTION 5.

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