



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 533

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 366

Senate, April 17, 2013

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS, COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE WORK IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 20-195u of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

4 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each clinical social
5 worker, licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, and, on
6 and after October 1, 2011, each master social worker licensed pursuant
7 to this chapter shall complete a minimum of fifteen hours of
8 continuing education during each registration period. For purposes of
9 this section, "registration period" means the twelve-month period for
10 which a license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88
11 and is current and valid.

12 (b) Continuing education required pursuant to this section shall be

13 related to the practice of social work and shall include not less than
14 one contact hour of training or education each registration period on
15 the topic of cultural competency. Such continuing education shall
16 consist of courses, workshops and conferences offered or approved by
17 the Association of Social Work Boards, the National Association of
18 Social Workers or a school or department of social work accredited by
19 the Council on Social Work Education. A licensee's ability to engage in
20 on-line and home study continuing education shall be limited to not
21 more than six hours per registration period. Within the registration
22 period, an initial presentation by a licensee of an original paper, essay
23 or formal lecture in social work to a recognized group of fellow
24 professionals may account for five hours of continuing education
25 hours of the aggregate continuing education requirements prescribed
26 in this section.

27 Sec. 2. Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

29 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license as a
30 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence
31 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the
32 requirements of section 20-195dd. The commissioner shall develop and
33 provide application forms. The application fee shall be three hundred
34 fifteen dollars.

35 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
36 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one
37 hundred ninety dollars. Each licensed professional counselor applying
38 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
39 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
40 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
41 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
42 education programs, which shall include not less than one contact
43 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of
44 cultural competency, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a
45 system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the

46 continuing education requirement for good cause.

47 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 20-74t of the general statutes is
48 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
49 *October 1, 2013*):

50 (a) On and after October 1, 2004, each alcohol and drug counselor
51 licensed or certified pursuant to this chapter shall complete a
52 minimum of twenty hours of continuing education each registration
53 period. For purposes of this section, registration period means the
54 twelve-month period for which a license or certificate has been
55 renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.
56 The continuing education shall be in areas related to the individual's
57 practice and shall include not less than one contact hour of training or
58 education each registration period on the topic of cultural competency.
59 Qualifying continuing education activities are educational offerings
60 sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health care institutions,
61 courses offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher
62 education or courses offered by individuals or organizations on the list
63 maintained by the Connecticut Certification Board, Inc. as approved
64 providers of such continuing education activities.

65 Sec. 4. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the
66 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

67 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
68 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
69 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing
70 in marital and family therapy from a regionally accredited college or
71 university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program
72 approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
73 Family Therapy Education and recognized by the United States
74 Department of Education; (2) completed a supervised practicum or
75 internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by
76 the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited
77 postgraduate clinical training program, approved by the Commission
78 on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education

79 recognized by the United States Department of Education in which the
80 student received a minimum of five hundred direct clinical hours that
81 included one hundred hours of clinical supervision; (3) completed a
82 minimum of twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience,
83 including at least (A) one thousand hours of direct client contact
84 offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being
85 awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training
86 year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one
87 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a
88 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination
89 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen
90 dollars for each initial application.

91 (b) The department may grant licensure without examination,
92 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any
93 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage
94 and family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the
95 United States, provided such state, territory or commonwealth
96 maintains licensure or certification standards which, in the opinion of
97 the department, are equivalent to or higher than the standards of this
98 state. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant
99 against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the
100 subject of an unresolved complaint.

101 (c) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually in
102 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such
103 renewal shall be three hundred fifteen dollars. Each licensed marital
104 and family therapist applying for license renewal shall furnish
105 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having participated in
106 continuing education programs. The commissioner shall adopt
107 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) define basic
108 requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include
109 not less than one contact hour of training or education each
110 registration period on the topic of cultural competency, (2) delineate
111 qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting,
112 and (4) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement for

113 good cause.

114 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant who
 115 is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family
 116 therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United
 117 States that does not maintain standards for licensure or certification
 118 that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this state may
 119 substitute five years of licensed or certified work experience in the
 120 practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in section 20-195a, in
 121 lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of
 122 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	20-195u(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	20-195cc
Sec. 3	October 1, 2013	20-74t(a)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2013	20-195c

PH Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health (DPH) as it is not anticipated to alter the number of clinical social workers, professional counselors, alcohol and drug counselors and marital and family therapists licensed by DPH. The bill requires licensees of these professions to include at least one hour of training in cultural competency as part of their mandated, annual continuing education requirements.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 366*****AN ACT REQUIRING LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS, COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE WORK IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed social workers, professional counselors, alcohol and drug counselors, and marriage and family therapists to complete one contact hour (i.e., at least 50 minutes) of continuing education coursework in cultural competency during each license registration period. (A registration period is the 12-month period for which a license is renewed.)

DPH regulations require each of these professions to complete at least 15 contact hours of continuing education during each registration period, except for alcohol and drug counselors, who must complete at least 20 contact hours.

The bill applies to all license registration periods starting on and after October 1, 2013. Thus, it appears that a person who applies for a license renewal between October 1, 2013 and October 1, 2014 would have less than one year to meet the new requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (04/01/2013)