



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 366

LCO No. 4761



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***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2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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 on the topic of cultural

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

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 Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

46 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 20-74t of the general statutes is

47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
48 *October 1, 2013*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statement of Purpose:

To require social workers, professional counselors, alcohol and drug counselors and marital and family therapists to take continuing education courses on the topic of cultural competency.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. AYALA, 23rd Dist.

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