



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 584

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6861

House of Representatives, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Except as provided in section 20-195f, no person shall practice
4 marital and family therapy unless he or she is licensed in accordance
5 with the provisions of section 20-195c, as amended by this act.

6 (b) No person shall use the title "licensed marital and family
7 therapist" or "licensed marital and family therapist associate" unless he
8 or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 20-195c,
9 as amended by this act.

10 Sec. 2. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

12 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist

13 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
14 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing
15 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited
16 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training
17 program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage
18 and Family Therapy Education, offered by a regionally accredited
19 institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum
20 or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised
21 by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited
22 postgraduate clinical training program, accredited by the Commission
23 on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered
24 by a regionally accredited institution of higher education in which the
25 student received a minimum of five hundred direct clinical hours that
26 included one hundred hours of clinical supervision; (3) completed a
27 minimum of twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience,
28 including at least (A) one thousand hours of direct client contact
29 offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being
30 awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training
31 year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one
32 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a
33 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination
34 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen
35 dollars for each initial application.

36 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
37 associate shall present to the department (1) satisfactory evidence that
38 such applicant has (A) completed a graduate degree program
39 specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally
40 accredited college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical
41 training program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
42 Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered by a regionally
43 accredited institution of higher education, and (B) passed an
44 examination prescribed by the department; and (2) verification from a
45 supervising licensed marital and family therapist that the applicant is
46 working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for
47 licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of

48 subsection (a) of this section. The fee shall be one hundred twenty-five
49 dollars for each initial application.

50 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The department may grant licensure without examination,
51 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any
52 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage
53 and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in
54 another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States,
55 provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or
56 certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are
57 equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall
58 be issued under this section to any applicant against whom
59 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an
60 unresolved complaint.

61 ~~[(c) Licenses issued]~~ (d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family
62 therapist under this section may be renewed annually in accordance
63 with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act. The fee
64 for such renewal shall be three hundred fifteen dollars.

65 (2) Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license
66 renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of
67 having participated in continuing education programs. The
68 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
69 to ~~[(1)]~~ (A) define basic requirements for continuing education
70 programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of
71 training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural
72 competency, ~~[(2)]~~ (B) delineate qualifying programs, ~~[(3)]~~ (C) establish
73 a system of control and reporting, and ~~[(4)]~~ (D) provide for waiver of
74 the continuing education requirement for good cause.

75 (3) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate shall
76 expire on or before thirty-six months after the date on which such
77 license was issued and may be renewed once for an additional thirty-
78 six months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as
79 amended by this act. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred
80 twenty dollars.

81 (4) Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for
82 license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner
83 of working toward completing the postgraduate experience required
84 for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of
85 subsection (a) of this section and the potential for successful
86 completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the thirty-six
87 month renewal period.

88 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant
89 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and
90 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the
91 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or
92 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this
93 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work
94 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in
95 section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3)
96 of subsection (a) of this section.

97 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the
98 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
99 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

100 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under
101 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-195cc or 20-206ll and chapters 370 to
102 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c, inclusive, 384,
103 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and section 20-206n or 20-
104 206o shall, annually, or, in the case of a person holding a license as
105 marital and family therapist associate under section 20-195c, as
106 amended by this act, on or before thirty-six months after the date of
107 initial licensure, during the month of such person's birth, apply for
108 renewal of such license or certificate to the Department of Public
109 Health, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and
110 business address and such other information as the department
111 requests.

112 Sec. 4. Section 20-206oo of the general statutes is repealed and the
113 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

114 The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations in
 115 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the
 116 provisions of subdivision (24) of subsection (c) of section 19a-14,
 117 subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, subdivision
 118 (15) of section 19a-175, subsection (b) of section 20-9, subsection [(c)]
 119 (d) of section 20-195c, as amended by this act, sections 20-195aa to 20-
 120 195ff, inclusive, and sections 20-206jj to [20-206oo] 20-206nn, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	20-195b
Sec. 2	October 1, 2015	20-195c
Sec. 3	October 1, 2015	19a-88(e)(1)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2015	20-206oo

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	15,151	24,206
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) ¹	GF - Cost	5,844	9,356
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	31,250	31,250

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of \$15,151 in FY 16 and \$24,206 in FY 17 to the Department of Public Health (DPH) from the establishment of a new marriage and family therapy associate license. The DPH cost supports one half-time Office Assistant with a 10/1/15 hire date who will assist in application processing and credential review, update the licensure database and carry out other programmatic responsibilities, including outreach to those engaged in the profession regarding the new license.

The State Comptroller fringe benefit cost for the Office Assistant is \$5,844 in FY 16 and \$9,356 in FY 17.

Anticipated General Fund revenue of \$31,250 in FY 16 and FY 17 reflects the collection of fees associated with 250 applicants for marital and family therapist associate licensure annually. Since the license is

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 38.65% of payroll in FY 16 and FY 17.

for a three-year period, there will be no renewal revenue collected until FY 19.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of marital and family therapist associate licenses issued and renewed beginning in FY 19.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6861

AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill creates an interim licensure category for marital and family therapist (MFT) associates working toward MFT licensure. It (1) establishes educational, testing, and other requirements for licensure and (2) recognizes MFT associate licenses from other jurisdictions under certain conditions. The MFT associate license is valid for three years. It costs \$125 and may be renewed once for \$220.

The bill makes other technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

INITIAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

To obtain an MFT associate license, an applicant must have:

1. completed a (a) graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university or (b) postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited college or university;
2. passed a Department of Public Health (DPH)-prescribed examination; and
3. verification from a supervising licensed MFT that she or he is working toward completing the postgraduate experience requirements for an MFT license.

LICENSURE WITHOUT EXAMINATION

As with MFT licenses under existing law, the bill allows DPH to grant an MFT associate license without examination to MFT associates licensed or certified in another U.S. state, territory, or commonwealth. An applicant can obtain a license in this way if the jurisdiction's licensing standards are equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's. Applicants must have no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending.

LICENSE RENEWALS

The MFT license is valid for three years and is renewable once, during the applicant's birth month. The applicant must (1) submit evidence that he or she is working on completing the postgraduate experience requirements for an MFT license and can successfully do so during the three-year renewal period and (2) pay a \$220 renewal fee.

BACKGROUND

LICENSED MFTs

By law, to obtain an MFT license, applicants must:

1. complete a (a) graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university or (b) postgraduate clinical training program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited college or university;
2. complete a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by their degree or clinical program in which they received at least 500 direct clinical hours, including 100 hours of clinical supervision;
3. complete a minimum of 12 months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (a) 1,000 hours of direct client contact offering marital and family therapy services after being awarded a master's degree or doctorate or after the year of postgraduate training and (b) 100 hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a licensed MFT; and

4. pass a DPH-prescribed examination.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 4 (03/27/2015)