



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6861

January Session, 2015



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 Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the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 Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the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	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	19a-88(e)(1)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-206oo

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

APP *Joint Favorable*