



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 68

February Session, 2016

* SB00068FIN__041916__ *

AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.

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 Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2016*):

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 2016 supplement to the general statutes
11 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
12 *October 1, 2016*):

13 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
14 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
15 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing
16 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited
17 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training

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

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

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

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

66 (2) Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license
67 renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of
68 having participated in continuing education programs. The
69 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
70 to [(1)] (A) define basic requirements for continuing education
71 programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of
72 training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural
73 competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two
74 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period
75 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every
76 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to
77 veterans and family members of veterans, including [(A)] (i)
78 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a
79 veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress
80 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and [(C)] (iii) suicide
81 prevention training, [(2)] (B) delineate qualifying programs, [(3)] (C)
82 establish a system of control and reporting, and [(4)] (D) provide for
83 waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

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

90 (4) Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for
91 license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner
92 of working toward completing the postgraduate experience required
93 for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of
94 subsection (a) of this section and the potential for successful
95 completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the thirty-six-
96 month renewal period.

97 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant
98 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and
99 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the
100 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or
101 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this
102 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work
103 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in
104 section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3)
105 of subsection (a) of this section.

106 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the 2016
107 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
108 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

109 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under
110 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-195cc or 20-206ll and chapters 370 to
111 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c, inclusive, 384,
112 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and section 20-206n or 20-
113 206o shall, annually, or, in the case of a person holding a license as a
114 marital and family therapist associate under section 20-195c, as
115 amended by this act, on or before thirty-six months after the date of

116 initial licensure, during the month of such person's birth, apply for
 117 renewal of such license or certificate to the Department of Public
 118 Health, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and
 119 business address and such other information as the department
 120 requests.

121 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 20-20600 of the 2016 supplement to
 122 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 123 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

124 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations in
 125 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the
 126 provisions of subdivision (24) of subsection (c) of section 19a-14,
 127 subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, subsection (b)
 128 of section 20-9, subsection [(c)] (d) of section 20-195c, as amended by
 129 this act, sections 20-195aa to 20-195ff, inclusive, and sections 20-206jj to
 130 20-20600, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-195b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-195c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	19a-88(e)(1)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-20600(a)

PH *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

APP *Joint Favorable*

FIN *Joint Favorable*