



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 557**

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7132

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2019*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATES AND MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-195aa of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 As used in this section and sections 20-195bb to 20-195ee, inclusive,  
4 as amended by this act, and section 5 of this act:

5 (1) "Licensed professional counselor" or "professional counselor"  
6 means a person who has been licensed as a professional counselor  
7 pursuant to this chapter;

8 (2) "Licensed professional counselor associate" or "professional  
9 counselor associate" means a person who has been licensed as a  
10 professional counselor associate pursuant to this chapter;

11 [(2)] (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

12 [(3)] (4) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

13 [(4)] (5) "Professional counseling" means the application, by persons  
14 trained in counseling, of established principles of psycho-social  
15 development and behavioral science to the evaluation, assessment,  
16 analysis, diagnosis and treatment of emotional, behavioral or  
17 interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that interfere with mental  
18 health and human development. "Professional counseling" includes,  
19 but is not limited to, individual, group, marriage and family  
20 counseling, functional assessments for persons adjusting to a  
21 disability, appraisal, crisis intervention and consultation with  
22 individuals or groups;

23 [(5)] (6) "Under professional supervision" means the practice of  
24 professional counseling under the supervision of a licensed  
25 professional counselor, a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370,  
26 who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and  
27 Neurology, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to  
28 chapter 378, who is certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical  
29 nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses  
30 Credentialing Center, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383,  
31 a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a or a  
32 licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b;

33 [(6)] (7) "Direct professional supervision" means face-to-face  
34 consultation between one supervisor, who is a professional described  
35 in subdivision [(5)] (6) of this section, and one person receiving  
36 supervision that consists of not less than a monthly review with a  
37 written evaluation and assessment by the supervisor of such person's  
38 practice of professional counseling; and

39 [(7)] (8) "Related mental health field" means social work, marriage  
40 and family therapy or psychology.

41 Sec. 2. Section 20-195bb of the general statutes is repealed and the  
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

43 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no person  
44 may practice professional counseling unless licensed pursuant to

45 section 20-195cc, as amended by this act.

46 (b) No person may use the title "licensed professional counselor",  
47 "licensed professional counselor associate" or "professional counselor"  
48 or make use of any title, words, letters or abbreviations that may  
49 reasonably be confused with licensure as a professional counselor or  
50 professional counselor associate unless licensed pursuant to section 20-  
51 195cc, as amended by this act.

52 (c) No license as a professional counselor shall be required of the  
53 following: (1) A person who furnishes uncompensated assistance in an  
54 emergency; (2) a clergyman, priest, minister, rabbi or practitioner of  
55 any religious denomination accredited by the religious body to which  
56 the person belongs and settled in the work of the ministry, provided  
57 the activities that would otherwise require a license as a professional  
58 counselor are within the scope of ministerial duties; (3) a sexual assault  
59 counselor, as defined in section 52-146k; (4) a person participating in  
60 uncompensated group or individual counseling; (5) a person with a  
61 master's degree in a health-related or human services-related field  
62 employed by a hospital, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19a-490,  
63 performing services in accordance with section 20-195aa, as amended  
64 by this act, under the supervision of a [person licensed by the state in  
65 one of the professions identified in clauses (i) to (vii), inclusive, of  
66 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 20-  
67 195dd] physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, who is certified in  
68 psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, an  
69 advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378,  
70 who is certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical nurse  
71 specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing  
72 Center, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383, a marital and  
73 family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a or a licensed clinical  
74 social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b; (6) a person licensed  
75 or certified by any agency of this state and performing services within  
76 the scope of practice for which licensed or certified; (7) a student,  
77 intern or trainee pursuing a course of study in counseling in a  
78 regionally accredited institution of higher education, provided the

79 activities that would otherwise require a license as a professional  
80 counselor are performed under supervision and constitute a part of a  
81 supervised course of study; (8) a person employed by an institution of  
82 higher education to provide academic counseling in conjunction with  
83 the institution's programs and services; or (9) a vocational  
84 rehabilitation counselor, job counselor, credit counselor, consumer  
85 counselor or any other counselor or psychoanalyst who does not  
86 purport to be a counselor whose primary service is the application of  
87 established principles of psycho-social development and behavioral  
88 science to the evaluation, assessment, analysis and treatment of  
89 emotional, behavioral or interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that  
90 interfere with mental health and human development. [; or (10) a  
91 person who earned a degree in accordance with the requirements of  
92 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd, provided (A) the  
93 activities performed and services provided by such person constitute  
94 part of the supervised experience required for licensure under  
95 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of said section, and (B) not later than  
96 two years after completion of such supervised experience, the  
97 exemption to the licensure requirement shall cease if the person did  
98 not successfully complete the licensing examination, as required under  
99 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of said section.]

100 Sec. 3. Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the  
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

102 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license (1) as a  
103 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence  
104 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the  
105 requirements of section 20-195dd, as amended by this act, and (2) as a  
106 professional counselor associate to any applicant who furnishes  
107 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met  
108 the requirements of section 20-195dd, as amended by this act. The  
109 commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. The  
110 application fee for a professional counselor shall be three hundred  
111 fifteen dollars. The application fee for a professional counselor  
112 associate shall be two hundred twenty dollars.

113 (b) Licenses issued to professional counselors and professional  
114 counselor associates under this section may be renewed annually  
115 pursuant to section 19a-88, as amended by this act. The fee for such  
116 renewal shall be one hundred ninety-five dollars. Each licensed  
117 professional counselor and professional counselor associate applying  
118 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the  
119 commissioner of having participated in continuing education  
120 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
121 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing  
122 education programs that shall include (A) not less than one contact  
123 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of  
124 cultural competency, (B) on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two  
125 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period  
126 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every  
127 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to  
128 veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining  
129 whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii)  
130 screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of  
131 suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, and  
132 (C) on and after January 1, 2018, not less than three contact hours of  
133 training or education each registration period on the topic of  
134 professional ethics, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a  
135 system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the  
136 continuing education requirement for good cause.

137 Sec. 4. Section 20-195dd of the general statutes is repealed and the  
138 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

139 [(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of  
140 this section, an applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall,  
141 prior to January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the  
142 commissioner of having: (A) Completed sixty graduate semester hours  
143 in or related to the discipline of counseling at a regionally accredited  
144 institution of higher education, that included coursework in each of the  
145 following areas: (i) Human growth and development, (ii) social and  
146 cultural foundations, (iii) counseling theories and techniques or

147 helping relationships, (iv) group dynamics, (v) processing and  
148 counseling, (vi) career and lifestyle development, (vii) appraisals or  
149 tests and measurements for individuals and groups, (viii) research and  
150 evaluation, and (ix) professional orientation to counseling; (B) earned,  
151 from a regionally accredited institution of higher education a master's  
152 or doctoral degree in social work, marriage and family therapy,  
153 counseling, psychology or a related mental health field; (C) acquired  
154 three thousand hours of postgraduate-degree-supervised experience in  
155 the practice of professional counseling, performed over a period of not  
156 less than one year, that included a minimum of one hundred hours of  
157 direct supervision by (i) a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370  
158 who has obtained certification in psychiatry from the American Board  
159 of Psychiatry and Neurology, (ii) a psychologist licensed pursuant to  
160 chapter 383, (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
161 pursuant to chapter 378 and certified as a clinical specialist in adult  
162 psychiatric and mental health nursing with the American Nurses  
163 Credentialing Center, (iv) a marital and family therapist licensed  
164 pursuant to chapter 383a, (v) a clinical social worker licensed pursuant  
165 to chapter 383b, (vi) a professional counselor licensed, or prior to  
166 October 1, 1998, eligible for licensure, pursuant to section 20-195cc, or  
167 (vii) a physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of  
168 Psychiatry and Neurology, psychologist, advanced practice registered  
169 nurse certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental  
170 health nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center,  
171 marital and family therapist, clinical social worker or professional  
172 counselor licensed or certified as such or as a person entitled to  
173 perform similar services, under a different designation, in another state  
174 or jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are  
175 substantially similar to or higher than those of this state; and (D)  
176 passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner. Any such  
177 applicant who, on or before July 1, 2017, is a matriculating student in  
178 good standing in a graduate degree program at a regionally accredited  
179 institution of higher education in one of the fields required under  
180 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision on or before July 1, 2017, but who  
181 cannot reasonably complete the requirements set forth in this

182 subdivision prior to January 1, 2019, as determined by the  
183 commissioner, may apply for a license under this subdivision on and  
184 after January 1, 2019.]

185 [(2)] (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections [(b)] (c) and  
186 [(c)] (d) of this section, an applicant for a license as a professional  
187 counselor shall [, on and after January 1, 2019,] submit evidence  
188 satisfactory to the commissioner of having: [(A) (i)] (1) (A) Earned a  
189 graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling as part of a  
190 program of higher learning accredited by the Council for Accreditation  
191 of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, or a successor  
192 organization, or [(ii) (I)] (B) (i) completed at least sixty graduate  
193 semester hours in counseling or a related mental health field at a  
194 regionally accredited institution of higher education that included  
195 coursework in each of the following areas: Human growth and  
196 development; social and cultural foundations; counseling theories;  
197 counseling techniques; group counseling; career counseling; appraisals  
198 or tests and measurements to individuals and groups; research and  
199 evaluation; professional orientation to mental health counseling;  
200 addiction and substance abuse counseling; trauma and crisis  
201 counseling; and diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional  
202 disorders, [(II)] (ii) earned from a regionally accredited institution of  
203 higher education a graduate degree in counseling or a related mental  
204 health field, [(III)] (iii) completed a one-hundred-hour practicum in  
205 counseling taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a  
206 professional counselor or its equivalent in another state, and [(IV)] (iv)  
207 completed a six-hundred-hour clinical mental health counseling  
208 internship taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a  
209 professional counselor or its equivalent in another state; [(B)] (2)  
210 acquired three thousand hours of postgraduate experience under  
211 professional supervision, including a minimum of one hundred hours  
212 of direct professional supervision, in the practice of professional  
213 counseling, performed over a period of not less than two years; and  
214 [(C)] (3) passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner.

215 (b) An applicant for a license as a professional counselor associate

216 shall submit to the Commissioner of Public Health evidence  
217 satisfactory to the commissioner of having (1) earned a graduate  
218 degree in clinical mental health counseling as part of a program of  
219 higher learning accredited by the Council for Accreditation of  
220 Counseling and Related Educational Programs, or a successor  
221 organization, or (2) (A) completed at least sixty graduate semester  
222 hours in counseling or a related mental health field at a regionally  
223 accredited institution of higher education that included coursework in  
224 each of the following areas: Human growth and development; social  
225 and cultural foundations; counseling theories; counseling techniques;  
226 group counseling; career counseling; appraisals or tests and  
227 measurements to individuals and groups; research and evaluation;  
228 professional orientation to mental health counseling; addiction and  
229 substance abuse counseling; trauma and crisis counseling; and  
230 diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, (B)  
231 completed a one-hundred-hour practicum in counseling taught by a  
232 faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its  
233 equivalent in another state, (C) completed a six-hundred-hour clinical  
234 mental health counseling internship taught by a faculty member  
235 licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its equivalent in  
236 another state, and (D) earned from a regionally accredited institution  
237 of higher education a graduate degree in counseling or a related  
238 mental health field.

239 [(b)] (c) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present  
240 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is licensed  
241 or certified as a professional counselor or professional counselor  
242 associate, or as a person entitled to perform similar services under a  
243 different designation, in another state or jurisdiction whose  
244 requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially similar to  
245 or higher than those of this state and that there are no disciplinary  
246 actions or unresolved complaints pending.

247 [(c)] (d) An applicant who is licensed or certified as a professional  
248 counselor or its equivalent in another state, territory or commonwealth  
249 of the United States may substitute three years of licensed or certified



250 work experience in the practice of professional counseling in lieu of the  
251 requirements of [subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a)  
252 of this section, or subparagraph (B) of] subdivision (2) of subsection (a)  
253 of this section, [as applicable,] provided the commissioner finds that  
254 such experience is equal to or greater than the requirements of this  
255 state.

256 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) An individual licensed as  
257 a professional counselor pursuant to section 20-195dd of the general  
258 statutes, as amended by this act, may practice professional counseling.  
259 The practice of professional counseling includes, but is not limited to,  
260 engaging in the independent practice of professional counseling.

261 (b) An individual licensed as a professional counselor associate  
262 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 20-195dd of the general statutes,  
263 as amended by this act, may practice professional counseling under  
264 professional supervision. Except as provided in subsection (c) of  
265 section 20-195bb of the general statutes, as amended by this act, a  
266 licensed professional counselor associate may not engage in the  
267 independent practice of professional counseling.

268 Sec. 6. Section 20-195ff of the general statutes is repealed and the  
269 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

270 The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in  
271 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to further the purposes  
272 of subdivision (18) of subsection (c) of section 19a-14, as amended by  
273 this act, subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act,  
274 subdivision (15) of section 19a-175, subsection (b) of section 20-9,  
275 sections 20-195aa to [20-195ff] 20-195ee, inclusive, as amended by this  
276 act, and [sections 20-206jj to 20-206oo, inclusive] section 5 of this act.

277 Sec. 7. Section 20-195a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
278 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

279 For purposes of this chapter:

280 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

281 (2) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

282 (3) "Marital and family therapy" means the evaluation, assessment,  
283 diagnosis, counseling, management and treatment of emotional  
284 disorders, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral, within the  
285 context of marriage and family systems, through the professional  
286 application of individual psychotherapeutic and family-systems  
287 theories and techniques in the delivery of services to individuals,  
288 couples and families; [.]

289 (4) "Licensed marital and family therapy associate" means a person  
290 who has been licensed by the department as a marital and family  
291 therapy associate pursuant to this chapter and whose license permits  
292 the person to engage in the practice of marital and family therapy  
293 under the clinical supervision of a licensed marital and family  
294 therapist; and

295 (5) "Licensed marital and family therapist" means a person who has  
296 been licensed by the department as a marital and family therapist  
297 pursuant to this chapter.

298 Sec. 8. Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
299 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

300 (a) Except as provided in section 20-195f, no person shall practice  
301 marital and family therapy unless licensed in accordance with section  
302 20-195c, as amended by this act.

303 (b) No person shall use the title "licensed marital and family  
304 therapist" or "licensed marital and family therapist associate" unless  
305 [he is] licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 20-195c, as  
306 amended by this act.

307 Sec. 9. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
308 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

309 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist  
310 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such

311 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing  
312 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited  
313 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training  
314 program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage  
315 and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited  
316 institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum  
317 or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised  
318 by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited  
319 postgraduate clinical training program [ ] accredited by the  
320 Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy  
321 Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher  
322 education, in which the student received a minimum of five hundred  
323 direct clinical hours that included one hundred hours of clinical  
324 supervision; (3) completed twelve months of relevant postgraduate  
325 experience, including (A) a minimum of one thousand hours of direct  
326 client contact offering marital and family therapy services subsequent  
327 to being awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the  
328 training year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one  
329 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a  
330 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination  
331 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen  
332 dollars for each initial application.

333 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist  
334 associate shall present to the department (1) satisfactory evidence that  
335 such applicant has completed a graduate degree program specializing  
336 in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited  
337 institution of higher education or an accredited postgraduate clinical  
338 training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for  
339 Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally  
340 accredited institution of higher education, and (2) verification from a  
341 supervising licensed marital and family therapist that the applicant is  
342 working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for  
343 licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of  
344 subsection (a) of this section. The fee shall be one hundred twenty-five  
345 dollars for each initial application.

346 [(b)] (c) The department may grant licensure without examination,  
347 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any  
348 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage  
349 and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in  
350 another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States,  
351 provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or  
352 certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are  
353 equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall  
354 be issued under this section to any applicant against whom  
355 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an  
356 unresolved complaint.

357 [(c) Licenses] (d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family  
358 therapist issued under this section may be renewed annually in  
359 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this  
360 act. The fee for such renewal shall be three hundred twenty dollars.  
361 Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license renewal  
362 shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having  
363 participated in continuing education programs. The commissioner  
364 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to [(1)] (A)  
365 define basic requirements for continuing education programs, which  
366 shall include not less than one contact hour of training or education  
367 each registration period on the topic of cultural competency and, on  
368 and after January 1, 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or  
369 education during the first renewal period in which continuing  
370 education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter  
371 on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and  
372 family members of veterans, including [(A)] (i) determining whether a  
373 patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening  
374 for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide,  
375 depression and grief, and [(C)] (iii) suicide prevention training, [(2)] (B)  
376 delineate qualifying programs, [(3)] (C) establish a system of control  
377 and reporting, and [(4)] (D) provide for waiver of the continuing  
378 education requirement for good cause.

379 (2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate shall

380 expire on or before twenty-four months after the date on which such  
381 license was issued and may be renewed once for an additional twenty-  
382 four months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as  
383 amended by this act. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred  
384 twenty dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist associate  
385 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the  
386 commissioner of working toward completing the postgraduate  
387 experience required for licensure as a marital and family therapist  
388 under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section and the potential  
389 for successful completion of such experience prior to the expiration of  
390 the twenty-four month renewal period.

391 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant  
392 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and  
393 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the  
394 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or  
395 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this  
396 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work  
397 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in  
398 section 20-195a, as amended by this act, in lieu of the requirements of  
399 subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section.

400 Sec. 10. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the  
401 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
402 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

403 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under  
404 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-185k, 20-185l, 20-195cc, as amended  
405 by this act, or 20-206ll and chapters 370 to 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to  
406 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c, inclusive, 384, 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a,  
407 395, 399 or 400a and section 20-206n or 20-206o shall, annually, or, in  
408 the case of a person holding a license as a marital and family therapist  
409 associate under section 20-195c, as amended by this act, on or before  
410 twenty-four months after the date of initial licensure, during the  
411 month of such person's birth, apply for renewal of such license or  
412 certificate to the Department of Public Health, giving such person's

413 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such  
414 other information as the department requests.

415 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 20-206oo of the general statutes is  
416 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
417 *October 1, 2019*):

418 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations in  
419 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the  
420 provisions of subdivision (24) of subsection (c) of section 19a-14,  
421 subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, subsection (b)  
422 of section 20-9, subsection [(c)] (d) of section 20-195c, as amended by  
423 this act, [sections 20-195aa to 20-195ff, inclusive,] and sections 20-206jj  
424 to [20-206oo] 20-206nn, inclusive.

425 Sec. 12. Subdivisions (6) to (19), inclusive, of subsection (c) of section  
426 19a-14 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
427 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

428 (6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist  
429 associate;

430 (7) Nurse-midwife;

431 (8) Licensed clinical social worker;

432 (9) Respiratory care practitioner;

433 (10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training  
434 provider;

435 (11) Massage therapist;

436 (12) Registered nurse's aide;

437 (13) Radiographer;

438 (14) Dental hygienist;

439 (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;

- 440 (16) Asbestos abatement worker;
- 441 (17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;
- 442 (18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
- 443 (19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	20-195aa
Sec. 2	October 1, 2019	20-195bb
Sec. 3	October 1, 2019	20-195cc
Sec. 4	October 1, 2019	20-195dd
Sec. 5	October 1, 2019	New section
Sec. 6	October 1, 2019	20-195ff
Sec. 7	October 1, 2019	20-195a
Sec. 8	October 1, 2019	20-195b
Sec. 9	October 1, 2019	20-195c
Sec. 10	October 1, 2019	19a-88(e)(1)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2019	20-206oo(a)
Sec. 12	October 1, 2019	19a-14(c)(6) to (19)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 4(a), "Subsections (b) and (c)" were changed to Subsections "(c) and (d)" for accuracy, Subparas. (A)(i) to (C), inclusive, were redesignated as Subdivs. (1)(A) to (3), inclusive, for consistency with standard drafting conventions and in Section 4(d), "or a professional counselor associate or its equivalent" was deleted and the closing bracket was moved from after "of this section, or" to after "subparagraph (B) of" for accuracy.

**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 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	19,351	23,641
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	7,303	9,738
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	40,835	68,720

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which requires the licensure of professional counselor associates (PCAs) and licensed martial and family therapist associates (LMFTAs) by the Department of Public Health (DPH), is anticipated to result in a net General Fund revenue gain of approximately \$14,001 in FY 20 and \$35,341 in FY 21.

The anticipated FY 20 cost to the State of \$26,834 includes total estimated DPH expenses of \$19,531. DPH costs reflect the salary for a half-time Office Assistant \$17,731 (partial year, as the bill is effective 10/1/19), and a one-time equipment cost of \$1,800 for a computer, software, and scanner for this employee. The full-year salary for the Office Assistant in FY 21 is approximately \$23,641. The State Comptroller fringe benefit cost for this position is \$7,303 in FY 20 \$9,738 in FY 21.

<sup>1</sup>The 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 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.



General Fund revenue of approximately \$40,835 is anticipated in FY 20 from the following:

- The initial licensure of approximately 143 PCAs with a fee of \$220 per application = \$31,460
- The initial licensure of approximately 75 LMFTAs with a fee of \$125 per application = \$9,375

In FY 21, General Fund revenue of approximately \$68,720 is anticipated from:

- The initial licensure of approximately 143 PCAs = \$31,460
- The renewal licensure of approximately 143 PCAs with a fee of \$195 per application = \$27,885
- The initial licensure of approximately 72 LMFTAs = \$9,375

In 2018, there were 2,865 licensed professional counselors and 1,489 licensed martial and family therapist in Connecticut. Using the percent of Master's Level Social Worker temporary licenses issued for the licensed Master's Level Social Worker population, it is assumed that approximately 5% of professional counselors and licensed martial and family therapists will seek associate licensure annually. LMFTA licensure is biannual under the bill. Therefore, revenue from its \$220 renewal fee is not anticipated until the out years.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above will continue into the future subject to the number of initial and renewal licenses for professional counselor associates and licensed martial and family therapist associates issued by DPH, and cost inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 7132**

**AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATES AND MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.**

**SUMMARY**

This bill creates a new associate licensure category for licensed professional counselors (LPCs) and marital and family therapists (MFTs) that allows them to practice under professional supervision while pursuing full licensure. To qualify for an associate license, the applicant must meet certain educational and clinical training requirements.

The bill also prohibits anyone who is unlicensed from using the title (1) “licensed professional counselor associate” or “professional counselor” or any title, words, letters, or abbreviations that may reasonably be confused with licensure or (2) “licensed marital and family therapist associate.” Existing law similarly prohibits unlicensed people from using a title that indicates that they are fully licensed LPCs and MFTs.

For LPCs, the associate license must be renewed annually. The initial license fee is \$220 and the renewal fee is \$195. For MFTs, the associate license is valid for two years and may be renewed once. The initial license fee is \$125 and the renewal fee is \$220.

Current law allows students who graduate with advanced degrees in professional counseling and marital and family therapy to practice without a license in order to complete the supervised work experience required for full licensure, but only (1) if supervised by someone licensed in their respective profession and (2) for up to two years after completing the supervised work experience, if they failed the

respective licensing examination. (The bill eliminates this provision for professional counseling students, but not for MFT students.)

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

## **§§ 1-6 — LPC ASSOCIATE LICENSE**

### ***Initial Licensure Requirements***

To obtain an LPC associate license, an applicant must submit to the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner satisfactory evidence of having earned a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling as part of a higher education program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, or its successor. Alternatively, the bill allows an applicant to complete:

1. at least 60 graduate semester hours in counseling or a related mental health field at a regionally accredited higher education institution that included coursework in (a) human growth and development; (b) social and cultural foundations; (c) counseling theories and techniques; (d) group, career, addiction and substance abuse, and trauma and crisis counseling; (e) appraisals or tests and measurements to individuals and groups; (f) research and evaluation; (g) professional orientation to mental health counseling; and (h) diagnosing and treating mental and emotional disorders;
2. a 100-hour counseling practicum and a 600-hour clinical mental health counseling internship each taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its equivalent in another state; and
3. a graduate degree in counseling or a related mental health field from a regionally accredited higher education institution.

### ***Licensure by Endorsement***

As with LPC licenses under existing law, the bill allows DPH to grant an LPC associate license by endorsement to LPC associates licensed or certified in another state or jurisdiction with requirements substantially similar to or higher than Connecticut's. Applicants must have no pending disciplinary actions or complaints.

***License Scope***

The bill generally prohibits an LPC associate from practicing professional counseling unless he or she is under the supervision of a:

1. LPC;
2. licensed psychiatrist certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology;
3. licensed advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center; or
4. licensed psychologist, MFT, or clinical social worker.

***License Renewal***

To renew a license, the bill requires LPC associates to submit satisfactory evidence to DPH that they completed continuing education requirements the commissioner sets in regulations. Such continuing education must include at least:

1. one contact hour (i.e., 50 minutes) of education or training in cultural competency;
2. two contact hours of training or education in mental health conditions common to veterans and their family members, during the first renewal period and every six years thereafter; and
3. three contact hours of training or education in professional ethics.

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## §§ 7- 12 — MFT ASSOCIATE LICENSE

### *Initial Licensure Requirements*

To obtain an MFT associate license, an applicant must provide DPH satisfactory evidence of having:

1. completed a (a) graduate degree program specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited higher education institution or (b) postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited higher education institution and
2. verification from a supervising licensed MFT that the applicant 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 other jurisdiction's licensing standards are at least as strict as Connecticut's. Applicants must also have no pending disciplinary actions or complaints.

### *License Renewals*

The MFT associate license is valid for two years and is renewable once during the applicant's birth month. The applicant must submit evidence that he or she is working to complete the postgraduate experience requirements for an MFT license and can successfully do so during the two-year renewal period.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/22/2019)