



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7132

LCO No. 3760



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***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. Subdivision (1) of section 20-195aa of the general statutes
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *January 1, 2020*):

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

7 Sec. 2. Section 20-195bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

9 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no person
10 may practice professional counseling unless licensed pursuant to
11 section 20-195cc, as amended by this act.

12 (b) No person may use the title "licensed professional counselor",

13 "licensed professional counselor associate" or "professional counselor"
14 or make use of any title, words, letters or abbreviations that may
15 reasonably be confused with licensure as a professional counselor
16 unless licensed pursuant to section 20-195cc, as amended by this act.

17 (c) No license as a professional counselor shall be required of the
18 following: (1) A person who furnishes uncompensated assistance in an
19 emergency; (2) a clergyman, priest, minister, rabbi or practitioner of
20 any religious denomination accredited by the religious body to which
21 the person belongs and settled in the work of the ministry, provided
22 the activities that would otherwise require a license as a professional
23 counselor are within the scope of ministerial duties; (3) a sexual assault
24 counselor, as defined in section 52-146k; (4) a person participating in
25 uncompensated group or individual counseling; (5) a person with a
26 master's degree in a health-related or human services-related field
27 employed by a hospital, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19a-490,
28 performing services in accordance with section 20-195aa, as amended
29 by this act, under the supervision of a person licensed by the state in
30 one of the professions identified in clauses (i) to (vii), inclusive, of
31 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 20-
32 195dd; (6) a person licensed or certified by any agency of this state and
33 performing services within the scope of practice for which licensed or
34 certified; (7) a student, intern or trainee pursuing a course of study in
35 counseling in a regionally accredited institution of higher education,
36 provided the activities that would otherwise require a license as a
37 professional counselor are performed under supervision and constitute
38 a part of a supervised course of study; (8) a person employed by an
39 institution of higher education to provide academic counseling in
40 conjunction with the institution's programs and services; or (9) a
41 vocational rehabilitation counselor, job counselor, credit counselor,
42 consumer counselor or any other counselor or psychoanalyst who does
43 not purport to be a counselor whose primary service is the application
44 of established principles of psycho-social development and behavioral
45 science to the evaluation, assessment, analysis and treatment of
46 emotional, behavioral or interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that

47 interfere with mental health and human development. [; or (10) a
48 person who earned a degree in accordance with the requirements of
49 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd, provided (A) the
50 activities performed and services provided by such person constitute
51 part of the supervised experience required for licensure under
52 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of said section, and (B) not later than
53 two years after completion of such supervised experience, the
54 exemption to the licensure requirement shall cease if the person did
55 not successfully complete the licensing examination, as required under
56 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of said section.]

57 Sec. 3. Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

59 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license (1) as a
60 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence
61 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the
62 requirements of section 20-195dd, and (2) as a professional counselor
63 associate to any applicant who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the
64 commissioner that such applicant has met the requirements of section
65 4 of this act. The commissioner shall develop and provide application
66 forms. The application fee shall be three hundred fifteen dollars.

67 (b) Licenses issued to professional counselors and professional
68 counselor associates under this section may be renewed annually
69 pursuant to section 19a-88, as amended by this act. The fee for such
70 renewal shall be one hundred ninety-five dollars. Each licensed
71 professional counselor and professional counselor associate applying
72 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
73 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
74 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
75 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
76 education programs that shall include (A) not less than one contact
77 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of
78 cultural competency, (B) on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two
79 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period

80 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every
81 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to
82 veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining
83 whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii)
84 screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of
85 suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, and
86 (C) on and after January 1, 2018, not less than three contact hours of
87 training or education each registration period on the topic of
88 professional ethics, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a
89 system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the
90 continuing education requirement for good cause. Each licensed
91 professional counselor associate applying for license renewal shall
92 furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of receiving the
93 supervised postgraduate experience required for licensure as a
94 professional counselor under subparagraphs (A)(ii)(III), (A)(ii)(IV) and
95 (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd.

96 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) Each applicant for a license
97 as a professional counselor associate shall submit to the Commissioner
98 of Public Health (1) evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of
99 having (A) earned a graduate degree in clinical mental health
100 counseling as part of a program of higher learning accredited by the
101 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
102 Programs, or a successor organization, or (B) (i) completed at least
103 sixty graduate semester hours in counseling or a related mental health
104 field at a regionally accredited institution of higher education that
105 included coursework in each of the following areas: Human growth
106 and development; social and cultural foundations; counseling theories;
107 counseling techniques; group counseling; career counseling; appraisals
108 or tests and measurements to individuals and groups; research and
109 evaluation; professional orientation to mental health counseling;
110 addiction and substance abuse counseling; trauma and crisis
111 counseling; and diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional
112 disorders, (ii) completed a one-hundred-hour practicum in counseling
113 taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a professional

114 counselor or its equivalent in another state, (iii) completed a six-
115 hundred-hour clinical mental health counseling internship taught by a
116 faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its
117 equivalent in another state, and (iv) earned from a regionally
118 accredited institution of higher education a graduate degree in
119 counseling or a related mental health field, and (2) verification from a
120 supervising professional that the applicant is working toward
121 completing the postgraduate experience required for licensure as a
122 professional counselor under subparagraphs (A)(ii)(III), (A)(ii)(IV) and
123 (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd of the
124 general statutes.

125 Sec. 5. Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

127 (a) Except as provided in section 20-195f, no person shall practice
128 marital and family therapy unless licensed in accordance with section
129 20-195c, as amended by this act.

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

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

136 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
137 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
138 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing
139 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited
140 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training
141 program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage
142 and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited
143 institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum
144 or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised
145 by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited

146 postgraduate clinical training program [] accredited by the
147 Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
148 Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher
149 education, in which the student received a minimum of five hundred
150 direct clinical hours that included one hundred hours of clinical
151 supervision; (3) completed twelve months of relevant postgraduate
152 experience, including (A) a minimum of one thousand hours of direct
153 client contact offering marital and family therapy services subsequent
154 to being awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the
155 training year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one
156 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a
157 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination
158 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen
159 dollars for each initial application.

160 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
161 associate shall present to the department (1) satisfactory evidence that
162 such applicant has: (A) Completed a graduate degree program
163 specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally
164 accredited institution of higher education or an accredited
165 postgraduate clinical training program accredited by the Commission
166 on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and
167 offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education, and
168 (B) passed an examination prescribed by the department; and (2)
169 verification from a supervising licensed marital and family therapist
170 that the applicant is working toward completing the postgraduate
171 experience required for licensure as a marital and family therapist
172 under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section. The fee shall be
173 one hundred twenty-five dollars for each initial application.

174 [(b)] (c) The department may grant licensure without examination,
175 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any
176 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage
177 and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in
178 another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States,
179 provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or

180 certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are
181 equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall
182 be issued under this section to any applicant against whom
183 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an
184 unresolved complaint.

185 [(c) Licenses] (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this
186 subsection, a license issued under this section may be renewed
187 annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as
188 amended by this act. The fee for such renewal shall be three hundred
189 twenty dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for
190 license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner
191 of having participated in continuing education programs. The
192 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
193 to [(1)] (A) define basic requirements for continuing education
194 programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of
195 training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural
196 competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two
197 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period
198 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every
199 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to
200 veterans and family members of veterans, including [(A)] (i)
201 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a
202 veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress
203 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and [(C)] (iii) suicide
204 prevention training, [(2)] (B) delineate qualifying programs, [(3)] (C)
205 establish a system of control and reporting, and [(4)] (D) provide for
206 waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

207 (2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate shall
208 expire on or before twenty-four months after the date on which such
209 license was issued and may be renewed once for an additional twenty-
210 four months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as
211 amended by this act. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred
212 twenty dollars.

213 (3) Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for
214 license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner
215 of working toward completing the postgraduate experience required
216 for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of
217 subsection (a) of this section and the potential for successful
218 completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the twenty-
219 four month renewal period.

220 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant
221 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and
222 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the
223 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or
224 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this
225 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work
226 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in
227 section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3)
228 of subsection (a) of this section.

229 Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the
230 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
231 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

232 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under
233 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-185k, 20-185l, 20-195cc, as amended
234 by this act, or 20-206ll and chapters 370 to 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to
235 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c, inclusive, 384, 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a,
236 395, 399 or 400a and section 20-206n or 20-206o shall, annually, or, in
237 the case of a person holding a license as a marital and family therapist
238 associate under section 20-195c, as amended by this act, on or before
239 twenty-four months after the date of initial licensure, during the
240 month of such person's birth, apply for renewal of such license or
241 certificate to the Department of Public Health, giving such person's
242 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such
243 other information as the department requests.

244 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 20-206oo of the general statutes is

245 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
 246 *October 1, 2019*):

247 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations in
 248 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the
 249 provisions of subdivision (24) of subsection (c) of section 19a-14,
 250 subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, subsection (b)
 251 of section 20-9, subsection [(c)] (d) of section 20-195c, as amended by
 252 this act, sections 20-195aa to 20-195ff, inclusive, as amended by this act,
 253 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>January 1, 2020</i>	20-195aa(1)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	20-195bb
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	20-195cc
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2020</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-195b
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-195c
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	19a-88(e)(1)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-206oo(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To require the licensure of professional counselor associates and marital and family therapist associates.

[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.]