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:

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 Subdivision (1) of section 20-195aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 1, 2020):

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

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 Section 20-195bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 1, 2020):

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

(b) No person may use the title "licensed professional counselor";
"licensed professional counselor associate" or "professional counselor"
or make use of any title, words, letters or abbreviations that mayreasonably be confused with licensure as a professional counselorunless licensed pursuant to section 20-195cc, as amended by this act.

(c) No license as a professional counselor shall be required of thefollowing: (1) A person who furnishes uncompensated assistance in anemergency; (2) a clergyman, priest, minister, rabbi or practitioner ofany religious denomination accredited by the religious body to whichthe person belongs and settled in the work of the ministry, providedthe activities that would otherwise require a license as a professionalcounselor are within the scope of ministerial duties; (3) a sexual assaultcounselor, as defined in section 52-146k; (4) a person participating inuncompensated group or individual counseling; (5) a person with amaster's degree in a health-related or human services-related fieldemployed by a hospital, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19a-490,performing services in accordance with section 20-195aa, as amendedby this act, under the supervision of a person licensed by the state inone of the professions identified in clauses (i) to (vii), inclusive, ofsubparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd; (6) a person licensed or certified by any agency of this state andperforming services within the scope of practice for which licensed orcertified; (7) a student, intern or trainee pursuing a course of study in counseling in a regionally accredited institution of higher education,provided the activities that would otherwise require a license as a professional counselor are performed under supervision and constitute a part of a supervised course of study; (8) a person employed by an institution of higher education to provide academic counseling in conjunction with the institution's programs and services; or (9) a vocational rehabilitation counselor, job counselor, credit counselor, consumer counselor or any other counselor or psychoanalyst who does not purport to be a counselor whose primary service is the application of established principles of psycho-social development and behavioral science to the evaluation, assessment, analysis and treatment of emotional, behavioral or interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that
interfere with mental health and human development.]; or (10) a
person who earned a degree in accordance with the requirements of
subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd, provided (A) the
activities performed and services provided by such person constitute
part of the supervised experience required for licensure under
subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of said section, and (B) not later than
two years after completion of such supervised experience, the
exemption to the licensure requirement shall cease if the person did
not successfully complete the licensing examination, as required under
subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of said section.]

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

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

(b) Licenses issued to professional counselors and professional
counselor associates under this section may be renewed annually
pursuant to section 19a-88, as amended by this act. The fee for such
renewal shall be one hundred ninety-five dollars. Each licensed
professional counselor and professional counselor associate applying
for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
commissioner of having participated in continuing education
programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
education programs that shall include (A) not less than one contact
hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of
cultural competency, (B) on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two
contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period
in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training, and (C) on and after January 1, 2018, not less than three contact hours of training or education each registration period on the topic of professional ethics, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause. Each licensed professional counselor associate applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of receiving the supervised postgraduate experience required for licensure as a professional counselor under subparagraphs (A)(ii)(III), (A)(ii)(IV) and (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2020) Each applicant for a license as a professional counselor associate shall submit to the Commissioner of Public Health (1) evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having (A) earned a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling as part of a program of higher learning accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, or a successor organization, or (B) (i) completed at least sixty graduate semester hours in counseling or a related mental health field at a regionally accredited institution of higher education that included coursework in each of the following areas: Human growth and development; social and cultural foundations; counseling theories; counseling techniques; group counseling; career counseling; appraisals or tests and measurements to individuals and groups; research and evaluation; professional orientation to mental health counseling; addiction and substance abuse counseling; trauma and crisis counseling; and diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, (ii) completed a one-hundred-hour practicum in counseling taught by a faculty member licensed or certified as a professional
counselor or its equivalent in another state, (iii) completed a six-
hundred-hour clinical mental health counseling internship taught by a
faculty member licensed or certified as a professional counselor or its
equivalent in another state, and (iv) earned from a regionally
accredited institution of higher education a graduate degree in
counseling or a related mental health field, and (2) verification from a
supervising professional that the applicant is working toward
completing the postgraduate experience required for licensure as a
professional counselor under subparagraphs (A)(ii)(III), (A)(ii)(IV) and
(B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-195dd of the
general statutes.

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

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

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

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

(a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing
in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited
college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training
program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage
and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited
institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum
or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised
by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited
postgraduate clinical training program [ ] accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education, in which the student received a minimum of five hundred direct clinical hours that included one hundred hours of clinical supervision; (3) completed twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (A) a minimum of one thousand hours of direct client contact offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being awarded a master’s degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen dollars for each initial application.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 20-206oo of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2019):

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>20-195aa(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>20-195bb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 3</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>20-195cc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 4</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
<td>New section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 5</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-195b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 6</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-195c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 7</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>19a-88(e)(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 8</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-2060o(a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.]