AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-30-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXEMPT COUNSELORS EMPLOYED BY NONPROFIT CHARITIES FROM THE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS REGULATORY LAW; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 73-30-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-30-25. It is not the intent of this chapter to regulate against members of other duly regulated professions in this state who do counseling in the normal course of the practice of their own profession. This chapter does not apply to:

   (a) Any person registered, certified or licensed by the state to practice any other occupation or profession while rendering counseling services in the performance of the occupation or profession for which he is registered, certified or licensed;
   
   (b) Certified school counselors when they are practicing counseling within the scope of their employment;
   
   (c) Certified vocational counselors when they are practicing vocational counseling within the scope of their employment;
   
   (d) Counselors in post-secondary institutions when they are practicing within the scope of their employment;
   
   (e) Student interns or trainees in counseling pursuing a course of study in counseling in a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher learning or training institution if activities and services constitute a part of the supervised course of study, provided that such persons be designated a counselor intern;
(f) Professionals employed by regionally or nationally accredited post-secondary institutions as counselor educators when they are practicing counseling within the scope of their employment;

(g) Professionals registered, certified or licensed by a recognized state or national professional association that has a published code of ethics and requires adherence to same;

(h) Duly ordained ministers or clergy while functioning in their ministerial capacity and duly accredited Christian Science practitioners;

(i) Professional employees of regional mental health centers, state mental hospitals, vocational rehabilitation institutions, youth court counselors and employees of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission or other governmental agency so long as they practice within the scope of their employment;

(j) Professional employees of alcohol or drug abuse centers or treatment facilities, whether privately or publicly funded, so long as they practice within the scope of their employment;

(k) Private employment counselors;

(l) Any nonresident temporarily employed in this state to render counseling services for not more than thirty (30) days in any year, if in the opinion of the board the person would qualify for a license under this chapter and if the person holds any license required for counselors in his home state or country; *

(m) Any social workers holding a master's degree in social work from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and who do counseling in the normal course of the practice of their own profession; and

(n) Counselors employed by nonprofit charities when they are practicing within the scope of their employment.
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.