

By: Representatives Hines, Johnson, Paden,
Harness, Banks, Clark

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 527

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-30-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
3 COUNSELOR TO ALLOW THE LICENSURE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE
4 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL
5 HEALTH AND WHO HAVE TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING DIRECT
6 COUNSELING SERVICES AT A BOARD-APPROVED SITE WITH OR WITHOUT
7 SUPERVISION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-30-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 73-30-9. (1) The board shall issue a license as a
12 provisional licensed professional counselor, without regard to
13 race, religion, sex or national origin, to each applicant who
14 furnishes satisfactory evidence of the following:

15 (a) The applicant has completed an application on a
16 form prescribed by the board accompanied by a nonrefundable
17 application fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

18 (b) The applicant is at least twenty-one (21) years of
19 age.

20 (c) The applicant is of good moral character.



21 (d) The applicant is a citizen of the United States, or
22 has an immigration document to verify legal alien work status in
23 the United States. The immigration document must be current and
24 issued by the United States * * * Citizenship and Immigration
25 Services.

26 (e) The applicant is not in violation of any of the
27 provisions of this article and the rules and regulations adopted
28 hereunder.

29 (f) The applicant shall have a minimum acceptable
30 graduate semester hour or acceptable quarter-hour master's degree,
31 as determined by the board, primarily in counseling or a related
32 counseling field from a regionally or nationally accredited
33 college or university program in counselor education or a related
34 counseling program subject to board approval. All applicants
35 shall provide official transcripts of all graduate work.

36 (g) The applicant must pass the examination approved by
37 the board, as set forth in Section 73-30-7(5).

38 (h) A provisional license issued under this section
39 shall require that the individual confine one's practice to a
40 board-approved site and accrue counseling experience under the
41 supervision of a board-qualified supervisor.

42 (i) The limited license shall be renewable for not more
43 than four (4) years, with a nonrefundable license fee in the
44 amount provided in Section 73-30-29. Licensees may appeal to the
45 board for an extension of the renewal period.



46 (j) Each applicant for licensure shall apply to undergo
47 a fingerprint-based criminal history records check of the
48 Mississippi central criminal database and the Federal Bureau of
49 Investigation criminal history database. Each applicant shall
50 submit a full set of the applicant's fingerprints in a form and
51 manner prescribed by the board, which shall be forwarded to the
52 Mississippi Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of
53 Investigation Identification Division for this purpose.

54 (2) The board shall issue a license or the privilege to
55 practice as a licensed professional counselor, without regard to
56 race, religion, sex or national origin, to each applicant who
57 furnishes satisfactory evidence of the following:

58 (a) The applicant has completed an application on a
59 form prescribed by the board accompanied by a nonrefundable full
60 application fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

61 (b) The applicant is at least twenty-one (21) years of
62 age.

63 (c) The applicant is of good moral character.

64 (d) The applicant is a citizen of the United States, or
65 has an immigration document to verify legal alien work status in
66 the United States. The immigration document must be current and
67 issued by the United States * * * Citizenship and Immigration
68 Services.



69 (e) The applicant is not in violation of any of the
70 provisions of this article and the rules and regulations adopted
71 hereunder.

72 (f) (i) The applicant shall have a minimum acceptable
73 graduate semester hour or acceptable quarter-hour master's degree,
74 as determined by the board, primarily in counseling or a related
75 counseling field from a regionally or nationally accredited
76 college or university program in counselor education or a related
77 counseling program subject to board approval. All applicants
78 shall provide official transcripts of all graduate work * * *; or

79 (ii) The applicant shall have completed the
80 necessary requirements for certification by the State Department
81 of Mental Health and have two (2) years of experience providing
82 direct counseling services at a board-approved site with or
83 without the supervision of a board-qualified supervisor.

84 (g) The applicant for licensure must pass the
85 examination approved by the board, as set forth in Section
86 73-30-7(5).

87 (h) The applicant has had post graduate supervised
88 experience in professional counseling acceptable to the board.
89 Applicants shall submit verification of supervised experience.
90 This paragraph (h) is not applicable to an applicant who meets the
91 requirements of paragraph (f) (ii) of this subsection.



92 Each application or filing made under this section shall
93 include the social security number(s) of the applicant in
94 accordance with Section 93-11-64.

95 (i) The board shall require each first-time applicant
96 for licensure or the initial privilege to practice and may require
97 applicants for license renewal to undergo a fingerprint-based
98 criminal history records check of the Mississippi central criminal
99 database and the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history
100 database. Each applicant for licensure and each renewal applicant
101 as required by the board shall apply to undergo a
102 fingerprint-based criminal history records check of the
103 Mississippi central criminal database and the Federal Bureau of
104 Investigation criminal history database. Each applicant shall
105 submit a full set of the applicant's fingerprints in a form and
106 manner prescribed by the board, which shall be forwarded to the
107 Mississippi Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of
108 Investigation Identification Division for this purpose.

109 (3) The board shall administer the privilege to practice in
110 accordance with the Professional Counseling Compact.

111 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
112 and after July 1, 2023.

