

By: Representative Yancey

To: Business and Commerce

HOUSE BILL NO. 1167

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-54-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
 3 LICENSE TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPLICANT'S DEGREE MAY BE IN MARRIAGE,
 4 COUPLE AND FAMILY COUNSELING FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
 5 EDUCATION THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF
 6 COUNSELING AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
 7 APPLICANT SHALL COMPLETE A CLINICAL PRACTICUM THAT MEETS THE
 8 ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS OF COAMFTE OR CACREP PROGRAMS; TO
 9 REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
 10 ASSOCIATE LICENSE TO PROVIDE THAT THE REQUIRED CLINICAL PRACTICUM
 11 SHALL MEET THE ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS OF COAMFTE OR CACREP
 12 PROGRAMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-54-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 15 amended as follows:

16 73-54-17. (1) Any person who applies for a marriage and
 17 family therapy license after September 1, 2000, shall be issued
 18 that license by the board if he or she meets the qualifications
 19 set forth in Section 73-54-13, and submits the required
 20 application fees, and provides satisfactory evidence to the board
 21 that he or she:

22 (a) Meets educational and experience qualifications as
 23 follows:



24 (i) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in
25 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher
26 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on
27 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),
28 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation
29 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation; or holds a
30 master's degree or doctoral degree in marriage, couple and family
31 counseling from an institution of higher education that is
32 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
33 Related Educational Programs (CACREP);

34 (ii) Following the receipt of the first qualifying
35 degree, has at least two (2) years of supervised experience in
36 marriage and family therapy, or its equivalent, acceptable to the
37 board; and

38 (iii) Completed a clinical practicum that meets
39 the accreditation requirements of COAMFTE or CACREP programs and
40 has completed at least one hundred (100) hours of marriage and
41 family therapy supervision following receipt of the first
42 qualifying degree, as defined by the board; and

43 (b) Passes the national Examination in Marital and
44 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and
45 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards; and

46 (c) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal
47 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable



48 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as
49 prescribed by the board.

50 (2) Any person who applies for a marriage and family therapy
51 associate license after September 1, 2011, shall be issued that
52 license by the board for a period of twenty-four (24) months,
53 which may be renewed biennially for a period not to exceed a total
54 of forty-eight (48) months, if the applicant meets the
55 qualifications set forth in Section 73-54-13, submits the required
56 application fees, and provides satisfactory evidence to the board
57 that he or she:

58 (a) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in
59 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher
60 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on
61 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),
62 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation
63 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation; or holds a
64 master's degree or doctoral degree in marriage, couple and family
65 counseling from an institution of higher education that is
66 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
67 Related Educational Programs (CACREP);

68 (b) Completed a clinical practicum that * * * meets the
69 accreditation requirements of COAMFTE or CACREP programs and one
70 hundred (100) hours of clinical supervision before receipt of the
71 qualifying degree;



72 (c) Passes the national Examination in Marital and
73 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and
74 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards;

75 (d) Provides all professional services under the
76 supervision of a qualified supervisor in accordance with a
77 supervision contract approved by the board; and

78 (e) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal
79 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable
80 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as
81 prescribed by the board.

82 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after July 1, 2024.

