

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2063

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-54-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO CLARIFY THAT APPLICANTS FOR A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST  
3 LICENSE MAY MEET EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN COURSEWORK  
4 ACCREDITED BY CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 73-54-17. Any person who applies for a license after  
9 September 1, 2000, shall be issued a license by the board if he or  
10 she meets the qualifications set forth in Section 73-54-13, and  
11 submits the required application fees, and provides satisfactory  
12 evidence to the board that he or she:

13 (a) Meets educational and experience qualifications as  
14 follows:

15 (i) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in  
16 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher  
17 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on  
18 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)  
19 or an equivalent accrediting organization, or that was in COAMFTE  
20 candidacy status at the time of graduation and subsequently  
21 received COAMFTE accreditation;

22 (ii) Following the receipt of the first qualifying  
23 degree, has at least two (2) years of supervised experience in  
24 marriage and family therapy, or its equivalent, acceptable to the  
25 board, provided it meets, at a minimum, the requirements for  
26 clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and  
27 Family Therapy;

28                           (iii) Has completed at least one hundred (100)  
29 hours of supervision of marriage and family therapy, as defined by  
30 the board; and

31                           (b) Passes an examination administered by the board.

32                   **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
33 and after its passage.