

By: Senator(s) Fillingane

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2159

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 THE APPLICANT'S DEGREE MAY BE FROM AN
4 INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF
5 COUNSELING AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (CACREP) AND TO REDUCE
6 CERTAIN HOUR REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

16 (a) Meets educational and experience qualifications as
17 follows:

18 (i) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in
19 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher
20 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on



21 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),
22 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation
23 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation, or holds a
24 master's degree or doctoral degree in marriage, couple and family
25 counseling from an institution of higher education that is
26 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
27 Related Educational Programs (CACREP);

28 (ii) Following the receipt of the first qualifying
29 degree, has at least two (2) years of supervised experience in
30 marriage and family therapy, or its equivalent, acceptable to the
31 board; * * *

32 (iii) Has completed at least one hundred (100)
33 hours of marriage and family therapy supervision following receipt
34 of the first qualifying degree, as defined by the board; * * *

35 (iv) Has completed one hundred (100) hours of
36 clinical supervision before receipt of the qualifying degree; and

37 (v) Has completed a clinical practicum that meets
38 the accreditation requirements of COAMFTE or CACREP programs;

39 (b) Passes the national Examination in Marital and
40 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and
41 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards; and

42 (c) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal
43 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable
44 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as
45 prescribed by the board.



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

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

64 (b) Completed a clinical practicum that * * * meets the
65 accreditation requirements of COAMFTE or CACREP programs and one
66 hundred (100) hours of clinical supervision before receipt of the
67 qualifying degree;

68 (c) Passes the national Examination in Marital and
69 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and
70 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards;



71 (d) Provides all professional services under the
72 supervision of a qualified supervisor in accordance with a
73 supervision contract approved by the board; and

74 (e) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal
75 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable
76 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as
77 prescribed by the board.

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

