

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2256** Session of  
2001

INTRODUCED BY L. I. COHEN, DECEMBER 13, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
DECEMBER 13, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), entitled "An  
2 act licensing and regulating the practice of social work;  
3 providing penalties; and making an appropriation," further  
4 providing for exemption from licensure requirements.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 9(b)(4)(iii) and (c)(4)(iii) of the act  
8 of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers,  
9 Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act,  
10 amended December 21, 1998 (P.L.1017, No.136), are amended to  
11 read:

12 Section 9. Exemption from licensure examination.

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) Marriage and family therapists.--The requirements of  
15 section 7(e)(4) shall not apply and a license shall be issued  
16 without examination to an applicant who meets all of the  
17 following requirements:

18 \* \* \*

1 (4) Has successfully met one of the following  
2 educational requirements:

3 \* \* \*

4 (iii) Has a master's degree of less than 48 semester  
5 hours or 72 quarter hours [but not less than 36 semester  
6 hours or 54 quarter hours] in marriage and family therapy  
7 or in a field determined by the board by regulation to be  
8 closely related to the practice of marriage and family  
9 therapy from an accredited educational institution with  
10 graduate level coursework in marriage and family therapy  
11 acceptable to the board and has within the past ten years  
12 completed sufficient continuing education satisfactory to  
13 the board to equal the number of hours needed to achieve  
14 a total of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours at a  
15 ratio of 15 continuing education hours equaling one  
16 semester hour.

17 \* \* \*

18 (c) Professional counselors.--The requirements of section  
19 7(f)(4) shall not apply and a license shall be issued without  
20 examination to an applicant who meets all of the following  
21 requirements:

22 \* \* \*

23 (4) Has successfully met one of the following  
24 educational requirements:

25 \* \* \*

26 (iii) Has a master's degree of less than 48 semester  
27 hours or 72 quarter hours [but not less than 36 semester  
28 hours or 54 quarter hours] in professional counseling or  
29 a field determined by the board by regulation to be  
30 closely related to the practice of professional

1        counseling and has within the past ten years completed  
2        sufficient continuing education satisfactory to the board  
3        to equal the number of hours needed to achieve a total of  
4        48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours at a ratio of 15  
5        continuing education hours equaling one semester hour.

6        \* \* \*

7        Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.