

**SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS ACT - AMEND LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS EXEMPTION**

Act of Dec. 9, 2002, P.L. 1410, No. 177

Cl. 63

Session of 2002

No. 2002-177

HB 2256

AN ACT

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

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

Section 1. Section 9(b)(4)(iii) and (c)(4)(iii) of the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, amended February 13, 2002 (P.L.83, No.4), are amended to read:

Section 9. Exemption from licensure examination.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

(iii) Has a master's degree of less than 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours but not less than [36] **30** semester hours or [54] **45** quarter hours in marriage and family therapy or in a field determined by the board by regulation to be closely related to the practice of marriage and family therapy from an accredited educational institution with graduate level coursework in marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board and has within the past ten years completed sufficient continuing education satisfactory to the board to equal the number of hours needed to achieve a total of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours at a ratio of 15 continuing education hours equaling one semester hour.

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

* * *

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

* * *

(iii) Has a master's degree of less than 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours but not less than [36] **30** semester hours or [54] **45** quarter hours in professional counseling or a field determined by the board by regulation to be closely related to the practice of professional counseling and has within the past ten years completed sufficient continuing education satisfactory to the board to equal the number of hours needed to achieve a total of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours at a ratio of 15 continuing education hours equaling one semester hour.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED--The 9th day of December, A. D. 2002.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER