

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 816 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, DENLINGER, BOYD, D. COSTA, GINGRICH,
MILLER, MOUL, REICHLLEY AND ROCK, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, FEBRUARY 24,
2011

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 qualifications for license.

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

7 Section 1. Section 7(d), (e) and (f) of the act of July 9,
8 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and
9 Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, amended
10 December 21, 1998 (P.L.1017, No.136) and July 9, 2008 (P.L.929,
11 No.68), are amended to read:

12 Section 7. Qualifications for license.

13 * * *

14 (d) Clinical social work license.--An applicant shall be
15 qualified for a license to hold oneself out as a licensed
16 clinical social worker if the applicant submits proof
17 satisfactory to the board that all of the following apply:

18 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

1 (2) The applicant has successfully met both of the
2 following requirements:

3 (i) Holds a master's degree in social work or social
4 welfare or a doctoral degree in social work from an
5 accredited school of social work as recognized by the
6 board.

7 (ii) Is licensed under this act as a social worker.

8 (3) The applicant has completed at least [three years
9 or] 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience acceptable
10 to the board as determined by regulation after completion of
11 the master's degree in social work.

12 (4) The applicant has passed a clinical social work
13 examination adopted by the board.

14 (5) The applicant has submitted an application
15 accompanied by the application fee.

16 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
17 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
18 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction
19 which, if committed in this Commonwealth, would be a felony
20 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
21 unless:

22 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
23 conviction;

24 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrated to
25 the board that the applicant has made significant
26 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
27 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
28 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
29 health and safety of clients or the public or a
30 substantial risk of further criminal violations; and

1 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the
2 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.
3 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a
4 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

5 (e) Marriage and family therapist license.--An applicant
6 shall be qualified to hold oneself out as a licensed marriage
7 and family therapist if the applicant submits proof satisfactory
8 to the board that all of the following apply:

9 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

10 (2) The applicant has successfully met one of the
11 following educational requirements:

12 (i) [Within five years after the board has
13 promulgated final regulations,] On or before June 30,
14 2009, has successfully completed a planned program of 60
15 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework
16 which is closely related to marriage and family therapy,
17 including a master's degree in marriage and family
18 therapy from an accredited educational institution or a
19 master's degree in a field determined by the board by
20 regulation to be closely related to the practice of
21 marriage and family therapy from an accredited
22 educational institution, with graduate level coursework
23 in marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board
24 from an accredited educational institution or from a
25 program recognized by a national accrediting agency.

26 (ii) Has successfully completed a planned program of
27 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
28 coursework which is closely related to marriage and
29 family therapy, including a 48-semester-hour or 72-
30 quarter-hour master's degree in marriage and family

1 therapy from an accredited educational institution or a
2 48-semester-hour or 72-quarter-hour master's degree in a
3 field determined by the board by regulation to be closely
4 related to the practice of marriage and family therapy
5 from an accredited educational institution, with graduate
6 level coursework in marriage and family therapy
7 acceptable to the board from an accredited educational
8 institution or from a program recognized by a national
9 accrediting agency.

10 (iii) holds a doctoral degree in marriage and family
11 therapy from an accredited educational institution or
12 holds a doctoral degree in a field determined by the
13 board by regulation to be closely related to the practice
14 of marriage and family therapy from an accredited
15 educational institution with graduate level coursework in
16 marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board from
17 an accredited educational institution or from a program
18 recognized by a national accrediting agency.

19 (3) The applicant has complied with the experience
20 requirement as follows:

21 (i) An individual meeting the educational
22 requirements of paragraph (2) (i) or (ii) must have
23 completed at least [three years or] 3,600 hours of
24 supervised clinical experience, acceptable to the board
25 as determined by regulation, obtained after the
26 completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of
27 graduate coursework.

28 (ii) An individual meeting the educational
29 requirements of paragraph (2) (iii) must have completed at
30 least [two years or] 2,400 hours of supervised clinical

1 experience, acceptable to the board as determined by
2 regulation, [one year or] 1,200 hours of which was
3 obtained subsequent to the granting of the doctoral
4 degree.

5 (4) The applicant has passed an examination adopted by
6 the board.

7 (5) The application has been accompanied by the
8 application fee.

9 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
10 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
11 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction which
12 if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony under the
13 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act unless:

14 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
15 conviction;

16 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to
17 the board that the applicant has made significant
18 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
19 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
20 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the
21 health and safety of clients or the public or a
22 substantial risk of further criminal violation; and

23 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the
24 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.

25 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a
26 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.

27 (f) Professional counselors license.--An applicant is
28 qualified for a license to hold oneself out as a licensed
29 professional counselor if the applicant submits proof
30 satisfactory to the board that all of the following apply:

1 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

2 (2) The applicant has successfully met one of the
3 following educational requirements:

4 (i) [Within five years after the board has
5 promulgated final regulations,] On or before June 30,
6 2009, has successfully completed a planned program of 60
7 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework
8 in counseling or a field determined by the board by
9 regulation to be closely related to the practice of
10 professional counseling, including a master's degree in
11 counseling or a field determined by the board by
12 regulation to be closely related to the practice of
13 professional counseling, from an accredited educational
14 institution.

15 (ii) Has successfully completed a planned program of
16 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
17 coursework in counseling or a field determined by the
18 board by regulation to be closely related to the practice
19 of professional counseling, including a 48-semester-hour
20 or 72-quarter-hour master's degree in counseling or a
21 field determined by the board by regulation to be closely
22 related to the practice of professional counseling, from
23 an accredited educational institution.

24 (iii) Holds a doctoral degree in counseling from an
25 accredited educational institution or holds a doctoral
26 degree in a field determined by the board by regulation
27 to be closely related to the practice of professional
28 counseling from an accredited educational institution.

29 (3) The applicant has complied with the experience
30 requirements as follows:

1 (i) An individual meeting the educational
2 requirements of paragraph (2)(i) or (ii) must have
3 completed at least [three years or] 3,600 hours of
4 supervised clinical experience, acceptable to the board
5 as determined by regulation, obtained after the
6 completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of
7 graduate coursework.

8 (ii) An individual meeting the educational
9 requirements of paragraph (2)(iii) must have completed at
10 least [two years or] 2,400 hours of supervised clinical
11 experience, acceptable to the board as determined by
12 regulation, [one year or] 1,200 hours of which was
13 obtained subsequent to the granting of the doctoral
14 degree.

15 (4) The applicant has passed an examination adopted by
16 the board.

17 (5) The application has been accompanied by the
18 application fee.

19 (6) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony
20 under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
21 or of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction which
22 if committed in this Commonwealth would be a felony under the
23 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act unless:

24 (i) at least ten years have elapsed from the date of
25 conviction;

26 (ii) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to
27 the board that the applicant has made significant
28 progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction
29 such that licensure of the applicant should not be
30 expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the

1 health and safety of clients or the public or a
2 substantial risk of further criminal violations; and
3 (iii) the applicant otherwise satisfies the
4 qualifications contained in or authorized by this act.
5 As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted" includes a
6 judgment, an admission of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere.
7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.