

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 778

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WASSON.

Read 1st time February 7, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2032L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 337.510, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to professional counselors.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 337.510, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 337.510, to read as follows:

337.510. 1. Each applicant for licensure as a professional counselor shall furnish evidence to the committee that the applicant is at least eighteen years of age, is of good moral character, is a United States citizen or is legally present in the United States; and

(1) The applicant has completed a course of study as defined by the board rule leading to a master's, specialist's, or doctoral degree with a major in counseling; and

(2) The applicant has completed acceptable supervised counseling as defined by board rule. If the applicant has a master's degree with a major in counseling as defined by board rule, the applicant shall complete at least two years of acceptable supervised counseling experience subsequent to the receipt of the master's degree. The composition and number of hours comprising the acceptable supervised counseling experience shall be defined by board rule. An applicant may substitute thirty semester hours of post master's graduate study for one of the two required years of acceptable supervised counseling experience if such hours are clearly related to counseling;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

14 (3) After August 28, 2007, each applicant shall have completed a minimum of three
15 hours of graduate level coursework in diagnostic systems either in the curriculum leading to a
16 degree or as post master's graduate level course work;

17 (4) Upon examination, the applicant is possessed of requisite knowledge of the
18 profession, including techniques and applications, research and its interpretation, and
19 professional affairs and ethics.

20 2. Any person who previously held a valid unrevoked, unsuspended license as a
21 professional counselor in this state and who held a valid license as a professional counselor in
22 another state at the time of application to the committee shall be granted a license to engage in
23 professional counseling in this state upon application to the committee accompanied by the
24 appropriate fee as established by the committee pursuant to section 337.507.

25 3. Any person holding a current license, certificate of registration, or permit from another
26 state or territory of the United States to practice as a professional counselor **who is at least**
27 **eighteen years of age, is of good moral character, and is a United States citizen or is legally**
28 **present in the United States** may be granted a license without examination to engage in the
29 practice of professional counseling in this state upon the application to the board, payment of the
30 required fee as established by the board, and satisfying one of the following requirements:

31 (1) Approval by the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) or its
32 successor organization according to the eligibility criteria established by AASCB. The successor
33 organization shall be defined by board rule; or

34 (2) In good standing and currently certified by the National Board for Certified
35 Counselors or its successor organization and has completed acceptable supervised counseling
36 experience as defined by board rule. The successor organization shall be defined by board rule;
37 or

38 (3) Determination by the board that the requirements of the other state or territory are
39 substantially the same as Missouri and certified by the applicant's current licensing entity that
40 the applicant has a current license. The applicant shall also consent to examination of any
41 disciplinary history.

42 4. The committee shall issue a license to each person who files an application and fee
43 and who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the committee that the applicant has complied with
44 the provisions of this act and has taken and passed a written, open-book examination on Missouri
45 laws and regulations governing the practice of professional counseling as defined in section
46 337.500. The division shall issue a provisional professional counselor license to any applicant
47 who meets all requirements of this section, but who has not completed the required acceptable
48 supervised counseling experience and such applicant may reapply for licensure as a professional
49 counselor upon completion of such acceptable supervised counseling experience.

50 5. All persons licensed to practice professional counseling in this state shall pay on or
51 before the license renewal date a renewal license fee and shall furnish to the committee
52 satisfactory evidence of the completion of the requisite number of hours of continuing education
53 as required by rule, which shall be no more than forty hours biennially. The continuing
54 education requirements may be waived by the committee upon presentation to the committee of
55 satisfactory evidence of the illness of the licensee or for other good cause.

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