

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 565

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES CORNEJO (Sponsor), BURLISON, ROWDEN, ELMER,
SPENCER, ANDERSON AND FRAKER (Co-sponsors).

1505L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 337.500, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to licensed professional counselors.

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

Section A. Section 337.500, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 337.500, to read as follows:

337.500. As used in sections 337.500 to 337.540, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following words and phrases mean:

(1) "Committee or board", the committee for professional counselors;

(2) "Department", the Missouri department of insurance, financial institutions and professional registration;

(3) "Director", the director of the division of professional registration;

(4) "Division", the division of professional registration;

(5) "Licensed professional counselor", any person who offers to render professional counseling services to individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, corporations, government agencies or the general public for a fee, monetary or otherwise, implying that the person is trained, experienced, and licensed in counseling, and who holds a current, valid license to practice counseling;

(6) "Practice of professional counseling", rendering, offering to render, or supervising those who render to individuals, couples, groups, organizations, institutions, corporations, schools, government agencies, or the general public any counseling service involving the application of counseling procedures, and the principles and methods thereof, to assist in

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.

17 achieving more effective intrapersonal or interpersonal, marital, decisional, social, educational,
18 vocational, developmental, or rehabilitative adjustments;

19 (7) "Professional counseling", includes, but is not limited to:

20 (a) The use of verbal or nonverbal counseling or both techniques, methods, or procedures
21 based on principles for assessing, **diagnosis**, understanding, or influencing behavior (such as
22 principles of learning, conditioning, perception, motivation, thinking, emotions, or social
23 systems);

24 (b) Appraisal or assessment, which means selecting, administering, scoring, or
25 interpreting instruments designed to assess a person's or group's aptitudes, intelligence, attitudes,
26 abilities, achievement, interests, and personal characteristics;

27 (c) The use of referral or placement techniques or both which serve to further the goals
28 of counseling;

29 (d) Therapeutic vocational or personal or both rehabilitation in relation to coping with
30 or adapting to physical disability, emotional disability, or intellectual disability or any
31 combination of the three;

32 (e) Designing, conducting, and interpreting research;

33 (f) The use of group methods or techniques to promote the goals of counseling;

34 (g) The use of informational and community resources for career, personal, or social
35 development;

36 (h) Consultation on any item in paragraphs (a) through (g) above; and

37 (i) No provision of sections 337.500 to 337.540, or of chapter 354 or 375, shall be
38 construed to mandate benefits or third-party reimbursement for services of professional
39 counselors in the policies or contracts of any insurance company, health services corporation or
40 other third-party payer;

41 (8) "Provisional licensed professional counselor", any person who is a graduate of an
42 acceptable educational institution, as defined by division rules, with at least a master's degree
43 with a major in counseling, or its equivalent, and meets all requirements of a licensed
44 professional counselor, other than the supervised counseling experience prescribed by
45 subdivision (1) of **subsection 1 of** section 337.510, and who is supervised by a person who is
46 qualified for the practice of professional counseling.

✓