

Board of Examiners for Counselors & Marriage and Family Therapists Proposed Legislation Summary

Bill Title: An Act to provide for issuing a license to a professional counselor, professional counselor-mental health, or marriage and family therapist licensed in another state under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

Section 1 changes the option for the Board to license an applicant who is licensed in another state as a professional counselor or professional counselor-mental health from reciprocity (substantially similar requirements between the state of licensure and South Dakota) to endorsement (licensing based on valid license in another state for a specified period of time and passage of national examinations).

The proposed changes would allow a professional counselor licensed in another state for at least 3 years to be licensed in South Dakota upon proof of passage of the National Counselor Examination and an active practice in the state where currently licensed. The proposed changes would also allow a professional counselor-mental health licensed in another state for at least 5 years to be licensed in South Dakota upon proof of passage of the National Counselor Examination, the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination and an active practice in the state where currently licensed.

For purpose of licensing an applicant licensed in another state, an active practice is defined as accumulating at least 1,500 of clinical experience in the three years preceding application for licensure in South Dakota.

Section 2 changes the option for the Board to license an applicant who is licensed in another state as a family and marriage therapist from reciprocity (substantially similar requirements between the state of licensure and South Dakota) to endorsement (licensing based on valid license in another state for a specified period of time and passage of national examinations).

The proposed changes would allow a marriage and family therapist licensed in another state for at least 5 years to be licensed in South Dakota upon proof of passage of the National Examination for Marriage and Family Therapy and an active practice in the state where currently licensed.

For purpose of licensing an applicant licensed in another state, an active practice is defined as accumulating at least 1,500 of clinical experience in the three years preceding application for licensure in South Dakota.

Section 3 repeals the administrative rule pertaining to licensure of a professional counselor by reciprocity. The rule is not necessary if the statutory changes in section 1 are made.

Section 4 repeals the administrative rule pertaining to licensure of a family and marriage therapist by reciprocity. The rule is not necessary if the statutory changes in section 2 are made.

Section 5 repeals the administrative rule pertaining to licensure of a professional counselor-mental health by reciprocity. The rule is not necessary if the statutory changes in section 1 are made.

Section 6 declares an emergency so the proposed changes in sections 1 through 5 are effective immediately upon passage and approval.