

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2016 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4423**

BY DELEGATE SKINNER

[Introduced February 5, 2016; referred to the  
committee on Health and Human Resources then the  
Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-21-7, §30-21-7b and §30-21-7d of the Code of West Virginia,  
 2 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §30-30-8, §30-30-10, §30-30-12 and §30-30-  
 3 14 of said code; and to amend and reenact §30-31-8 and §30-31-9 of said code, all relating  
 4 to professions and occupations; requiring various professionals who provide mental  
 5 health-related services, including psychologists, licensed school psychologists, marriage  
 6 and family therapists, professional clinical counselors and clinical social workers who  
 7 begin graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, to complete a minimum number of fifteen  
 8 contact hours of course work in suicide assessment, treatment and management before  
 9 that person may be issued a license; and requiring a person licensed in these professions  
 10 or an applicant for licensure who begins graduated study prior to January 1, 2017, to take  
 11 a six hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment and management  
 12 in order to renew that person's license.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That §30-21-7, §30-21-7b and §30-21-7d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
 2 be amended and reenacted; that §30-30-8, §30-30-10, §30-30-12 and §30-30-14 of said code be  
 3 amended and reenacted; and that §30-31-8 and §30-31-9 of said code be amended and  
 4 reenacted, all to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 21. PSYCHOLOGISTS; SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

**§30-21-7. Qualifications of applicants; exceptions; applications; fee.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of psychology, the applicant must:  
 2 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;  
 3 (2) Be of good moral character;  
 4 (3) Be a holder of a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent or a master's degree in  
 5 psychology from an accredited institution of higher learning, with adequate course study at ~~such~~  
 6 the institution in psychology, the adequacy of any such course study to be determined by the  
 7 board;

8 (4) When the degree held is a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent, have at least  
9 one year's experience subsequent to receiving said degree in the performance of any of the  
10 psychological services described in subdivision (e), section two of this article, including those  
11 activities excluded from the definition of the term "practice of psychology" in said subdivision (e),  
12 and, when the degree held is a master's degree, have at least five years' experience subsequent  
13 to receiving said degree in the performance of any of the psychological services described in said  
14 subdivision (e), including those activities excluded from the definition of the term "practice of  
15 psychology" in said subdivision (e);

16 (5) Have passed the examination prescribed by the board, which examination shall cover  
17 the basic subject matter of psychology and psychological skills and techniques;

18 (6) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude; ~~and~~

19 (7) Not, within the next preceding six months, have taken and failed to pass the  
20 examination required by subdivision (5), subsection (a) of this section; and

21 (8) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
22 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
23 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
24 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in  
25 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
26 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision.

27 (b) The following persons ~~shall be~~ are eligible for a license to engage in the practice of  
28 psychology without examination:

29 (1) Any applicant who holds a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent from an  
30 institution of higher learning, with adequate course study at ~~such~~ the institution in psychology and  
31 who is a diplomate of the "American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology"; and

32 (2) Any person who holds a license or certificate to engage in the practice of psychology  
33 issued by any other state, the requirements for which license or certificate are found by the board

34 to be at least as great as those provided in this article.

35 (c) Any person who is engaged in the practice of psychology in this state, or is engaged  
 36 in any of the activities described in subdivision (e), (1), (2) or (3), section two of this article, in this  
 37 state, on the effective date of this article and has been so engaged for a period of two consecutive  
 38 years immediately prior thereto ~~shall be~~ is eligible for a license to engage in the practice of  
 39 psychology without examination and without meeting the requirements of subdivision (4),  
 40 subsection (a) of this section, if application for ~~such~~ the license is made within six months after  
 41 the effective date of this article and if ~~such~~ the person meets the requirements of subdivisions (1),  
 42 (2), (3) and (6), subsection (a) of this section: *Provided*, That an equivalent of a master's degree  
 43 in psychology may be considered by the board, only for the purpose of this subsection (c), as  
 44 meeting the requirements of subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section.

45 (d) Any applicant for any ~~such~~ license shall submit an application therefor at ~~such~~ the time  
 46 (subject to the time limitation set forth in subsection (c) of this section), in ~~such~~ the manner, on  
 47 ~~such~~ forms ~~and~~ containing ~~such~~ information as the board may from time to time by reasonable  
 48 rule ~~and regulation~~ prescribe, and pay to the board an application fee.

**§30-21-7b. Eligibility for licensed school psychologist.**

1 To meet minimum requirements for this license the applicant must:

2 (1) Have obtained a valid certificate of school psychology granted by the state  
 3 superintendent of Schools, have obtained a certificate of advanced study in school psychology  
 4 and obtained a master's degree in school psychology from a board-approved institution of higher  
 5 education, or have received equivalent training as determined by the board;

6 (2) Have completed at least three academic years of supervised experience in school  
 7 psychology which includes a one year post degree internship or externship towards completion  
 8 of the requirements for a certificate of advance study in school psychology or similar designation  
 9 approved by the board: *Provided*, That ~~such~~ the supervised experience shall include at least one  
 10 face to face meeting between the supervisor and supervisee per month.

11 (3) Have passed a standardized national examination in school psychology promulgated  
12 by the National Association of School Psychologists or other similar organizations and approved  
13 as a standardized testing vehicle for school psychologists by the board;

14 (4) Have passed an oral examination conducted by the board; ~~and~~

15 (5) Complete appropriate application and other forms, provide evidence of credentials,  
16 and pay appropriate fees as determined by the board; and

17 (6) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
18 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
19 assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the applicant  
20 or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision.

**§30-21-7d. Eligibility for current school psychologist.**

1 (1) Any person who holds a current certificate of advanced study and has the equivalent  
2 of three academic years experience in school psychology or any licensed psychologist who has  
3 been approved by the state Department of Education on the effective date of this section ~~shall~~  
4 may not be required to comply with the provisions of section seven-b, article twenty-one, chapter  
5 thirty of this code. ~~Such~~ Those persons shall submit appropriate documentation of credentials to  
6 the board, application form, and pay an application fee: *Provided, That* ~~such~~ the applicants pass  
7 an oral exam given by the board of psychology.

8 (2) ~~Such~~ Persons seeking eligibility as a licensed school psychologist independent  
9 practitioner must meet the provisions of section seven-b of this article, must have completed the  
10 equivalency of two years supervised experience and shall complete an oral examination before  
11 the board, submit required documentation, pay appropriate fees and complete additional  
12 supervision and training requirements as determined by the board. Applicants seeking eligibility  
13 pursuant to this section must make application on or before July 1, 1992.

14 (3) A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior to January 1,  
15 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide

16 assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the applicant  
17 or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision.

## **ARTICLE 30. SOCIAL WORKERS.**

### **§30-30-8. License to practice as an independent clinical social worker.**

1 To be eligible for a license to practice as an independent clinical social worker, the  
2 applicant must:

- 3 (1) Submit an application to the board;
- 4 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;
- 5 (3) Be of good moral character;
- 6 (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council  
7 on social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as  
8 defined by the board;
- 9 (5) Have completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or post-  
10 master's clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;
- 11 (6) Have practiced clinical social work for at least two years in full-time employment, or  
12 three thousand hours under the supervision of an independent clinical social worker, or clinical  
13 supervision that is found by the board to be equivalent;
- 14 (7) Have passed an examination approved by the board;
- 15 (8) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board  
16 with three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;
- 17 (9) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
18 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery  
19 process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an  
20 acknowledged substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;
- 21 (10) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
22 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

23 (11) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense  
 24 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
 25 unreversed; ~~and~~

26 (12) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
 27 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
 28 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
 29 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in  
 30 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
 31 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

32 ~~(12)~~ (13) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

**§30-30-10. License to practice as a certified social worker.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice as certified social worker, the applicant must:

2 (1) Submit an application to the board;

3 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

4 (3) Be of good moral character;

5 (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council  
 6 on social work education;

7 (5) Have practiced social work for at least two years post-master's experience in full-time  
 8 employment or earned three thousand hours of post-masters social work experience;

9 (6) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

10 (7) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board  
 11 with three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

12 (8) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
 13 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery  
 14 process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an  
 15 acknowledged substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

16 (9) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
17 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

18 (10) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense  
19 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
20 unreversed; ~~and~~

21 (11) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
22 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
23 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
24 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in  
25 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
26 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

27 ~~(11)~~ (12) Meet other additional requirements as established by the board.

28 (b) A certified social worker may engage in the practice of clinical social work, if that  
29 certified social worker has:

30 (1) Obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on  
31 social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as defined  
32 by the board;

33 (2) Has completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or post-  
34 master's clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;

35 (3) Has contracted, in writing, with a licensed clinical social worker who shall assume  
36 responsibility for and supervise the certified social worker's practice as directed by the board by  
37 promulgation of legislative rules;

38 (4) Is an employee of an institution or organization in which the certified social worker has  
39 no direct or indirect interest other than employment.

40 (c) A certified social worker may not practice clinical social work until his or her contract  
41 has been approved by the board, and shall cease the practice of clinical social work immediately



42 upon the termination of the contract. At the termination of the contract, the certified social worker  
43 shall apply for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker or request an extension of the contract  
44 from the board.

**§30-30-12. License to practice as a licensed graduate social worker.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice as a graduate social worker, the applicant must:

2 (1) Submit an application to the board;

3 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

4 (3) Be of good moral character;

5 (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council  
6 on social work education;

7 (5) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

8 (6) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board  
9 with three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

10 (7) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
11 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery  
12 process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an  
13 acknowledged substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

14 (8) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
15 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

16 (9) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense  
17 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
18 unreversed; ~~and~~

19 (10) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
20 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
21 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
22 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in

23 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
24 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

25 ~~(40)~~ (11) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

26 (b) A licensed graduate social worker may engage in the practice of clinical social work, if  
27 he or she has:

28 (1) Obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on  
29 social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as defined  
30 by the board;

31 (2) Has completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or post-  
32 master's clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;

33 (3) Has contracted, in writing, with a licensed clinical social worker who shall assume  
34 responsibility for and supervise the certified social worker's practice as directed by the board by  
35 promulgation of legislative rules;

36 (4) Be employed by an institution or organization in which the graduate social worker has  
37 no direct or indirect interest other than employment.

38 (c) A graduate social worker may not practice clinical social work until this contract has  
39 been approved by the board, and shall cease the practice of clinical social work immediately upon  
40 the termination of the contract. At the termination of the contract, the graduate social worker shall  
41 apply for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker or request an extension of the  
42 contract from the board.

**§30-30-14. License to practice as a social worker.**

1 To be eligible for a license to practice as a social worker, the applicant must:

2 (1) Submit an application to the board;

3 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

4 (3) Be of good moral character;

5 (4) Have a baccalaureate degree in social work from a program accredited by the council

6 on social work education;

7 (5) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

8 (6) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board  
9 with three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

10 (7) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
11 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery  
12 process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an  
13 acknowledged substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

14 (8) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
15 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

16 (9) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense  
17 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
18 unreversed; and

19 (10) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
20 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
21 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
22 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in  
23 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
24 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

25 ~~(40)~~ (11) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

**ARTICLE 31. LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS.**

**§30-31-8. Requirements for license to practice counseling.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice professional counseling, an applicant must:

2 (1) Be of good moral character;

3 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

4 (3) Be a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;

5 (4) Pay the applicable fee;

6 (5)(A)(i) Have earned a master's degree in an accredited counseling program or in a field  
7 closely related to an accredited counseling program as determined by the board, or have received  
8 training equivalent to such degree as may be determined by the board; and

9 (ii) Have at least two years of supervised professional experience in counseling of such a  
10 nature as is designated by the board after earning a master's degree or equivalent; or

11 (B)(i) Have earned a doctorate degree in an accredited counseling program or in a field  
12 closely related to an accredited counseling program as determined by the board, or have received  
13 training equivalent to such degree as may be determined by the board; and

14 (ii) Have at least one year of supervised professional experience in counseling of such a  
15 nature as is designated by the board after earning a doctorate degree or equivalent;

16 (6) Have passed a standardized national certification examination in counseling approved  
17 by the board;

18 (7) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude under the laws  
19 of any jurisdiction:

20 (A) If the applicant has never been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral  
21 turpitude, the applicant shall submit letters of recommendation from three persons not related to  
22 the applicant and a sworn statement from the applicant stating that he or she has never been  
23 convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; or

24 (B) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, it  
25 is a rebuttable presumption that the applicant is unfit for licensure unless he or she submits  
26 competent evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of a  
27 licensed professional counselor as may be established by the production of:

28 (i) Documentary evidence including a copy of the relevant release or discharge order,  
29 evidence showing compliance with all conditions of probation or parole, evidence showing that at  
30 least one year has elapsed since release or discharge without subsequent conviction, and letters

31 of reference from three persons who have been in contact with the applicant since his or her  
32 release or discharge; and

33 (ii) Any collateral evidence and testimony as may be requested by the board which shows  
34 the nature and seriousness of the crime, the circumstances relative to the crime or crimes  
35 committed and any mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the crime or crimes  
36 and any other evidence necessary for the board to judge present fitness for licensure or whether  
37 licensure will enhance the likelihood that the applicant will commit the same or similar offenses;

38 (8) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
39 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant who has had at least two  
40 continuous years of uninterrupted sobriety in an active recovery process, which may, in the  
41 discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in a twelve-step program or other similar  
42 group or process, may be considered; ~~and~~

43 (9) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
44 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
45 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
46 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in  
47 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
48 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

49 ~~(9)~~ (10) Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board.

50 (b) A person who holds a license or other authorization to practice counseling issued by  
51 another state, the qualifications for which license or other authorization are determined by the  
52 board to be at least substantially equivalent to the license requirements in this article, is eligible  
53 for licensure.

54 (c) A person seeking licensure under the provisions of this section shall submit an  
55 application on a form prescribed by the board and pay all applicable fees.

56 (d) A person who has been continually licensed under this article since 1987, pursuant to

57 prior enactments permitting waiver of certain examination and other requirements, is eligible for  
58 renewal under the provisions of this article.

59 (e) A license to practice professional counseling issued by the board prior to July 1, 2009,  
60 shall for all purposes be considered a license issued under this article: *Provided*, That a person  
61 holding a license issued prior to July 1, 2009, must renew the license pursuant to the provisions  
62 of this article.

**§30-31-9. Requirements for a license to practice marriage and family therapy.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice marriage and family therapy, an applicant must:

2 (1) Be of good moral character;

3 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

4 (3) Be a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;

5 (4) Pay the applicable fee;

6 (5)(A)(i) Have earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from a program  
7 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, the  
8 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs, or a comparable  
9 accrediting body as approved by the board, or in a field closely related to an accredited marriage  
10 and family therapy program as determined by the board, or have received training equivalent to  
11 such degree as may be determined by the board; and

12 (ii) Have at least two years of supervised professional experience in marriage and family  
13 therapy of such a nature as is designated by the board after earning a master's degree or  
14 equivalent; or

15 (B) (i) Have earned a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program  
16 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, the  
17 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs, or a comparable  
18 accrediting body as approved by the board, or in a field closely related to an accredited marriage  
19 and family therapy program as determined by the board, or have received training equivalent to

20 such degree as may be determined by the board; and

21 (ii) Have at least one year of supervised professional experience in marriage and family  
22 therapy of such a nature as is designated by the board after earning a doctorate degree or  
23 equivalent;

24 (6) Have passed a standardized national certification examination in marriage and family  
25 therapy as approved by the board;

26 (7) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude under the laws  
27 of any jurisdiction:

28 (A) If the applicant has never been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral  
29 turpitude, the applicant shall submit letters of recommendation from three persons not related to  
30 the applicant and a sworn statement from the applicant stating that he or she has never been  
31 convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; or

32 (B) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, it  
33 is a rebuttable presumption that the applicant is unfit for licensure unless he or she submits  
34 competent evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of a  
35 person licensed to practice marriage and family therapy as may be established by the production  
36 of:

37 (i) Documentary evidence including a copy of the relevant release or discharge order,  
38 evidence showing compliance with all conditions of probation or parole, evidence showing that at  
39 least one year has elapsed since release or discharge without subsequent conviction, and letters  
40 of reference from three persons who have been in contact with the applicant since his or her  
41 release or discharge; and

42 (ii) Any collateral evidence and testimony as may be requested by the board which shows  
43 the nature and seriousness of the crime, the circumstances relative to the crime or crimes  
44 committed and any mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the crime or crimes,  
45 and any other evidence necessary for the board to judge present fitness for licensure or whether

46 licensure will enhance the likelihood that the applicant will commit the same or similar offenses;

47 (8) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
48 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant who has had at least two  
49 continuous years of uninterrupted sobriety in an active recovery process, which may, in the  
50 discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in a twelve-step program or other similar  
51 group or process, may be considered; ~~and~~

52 (9) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2017, shall complete  
53 as a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide  
54 assessment, treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins  
55 graduate study prior to January 1, 2017, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in  
56 best practices for suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a  
57 license until the applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

58 ~~(9)~~ (10) Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board.

59 (b) A person who holds a license or other authorization to practice marriage and family  
60 therapy issued by another state, the qualifications for which license or other authorization are  
61 determined by the board to be at least substantially equivalent to the license requirements in this  
62 article, is eligible for licensure.

63 (c) A person seeking licensure under the provisions of this section shall submit an  
64 application on a form prescribed by the board and pay all applicable fees.

65 (d) A person who is licensed for five years as of July 1, 2010 and has substantially similar  
66 qualifications as required by subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)(A)(i) or (5)(B)(i), (7) and (8) of  
67 subsection (a) of this section is eligible for a license to practice marriage and family therapy until  
68 July 1, 2012, and is eligible for renewal under section ten.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require various professionals who provide mental health-related services, including psychologists, licensed school psychologists, marriage and family therapists, professional clinical counselors and clinical social workers who begin



graduate study on or after January 1, 2017 to complete a minimum number of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment, treatment and management before that person may be issued a license. The bill also requires a person licensed in these professions or an applicant for licensure who begins graduated study prior to January 1, 2017, to take a six hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment and management in order to renew that person's license.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.