

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 482
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Financial and Governmental Organizations and Elections, March 8, 2007, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass and be placed on the Consent Calendar.

1710S.03C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 337.700, 337.715, and 337.718, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to family and marital therapists.

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

Section A. Sections 337.700, 337.715 and 337.718, RSMo, are repealed and
2 three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 337.700,
3 337.715, and 337.718, to read as follows:

337.700. As used in sections 337.700 to 337.739, the following terms
2 mean:

3 (1) "Committee", the state committee for family and marital therapists;

4 (2) "Department", the Missouri department of economic development;

5 (3) "Director", the director of the division of professional registration in
6 the department of economic development;

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

8 (5) "Fund", the marital and family therapists' fund created in section
9 337.712;

10 (6) "Licensed marital and family therapist", a person to whom a license
11 has been issued pursuant to the provisions of sections 337.700 to 337.739, whose
12 license is in force and not suspended or revoked;

13 (7) "Marital and family therapy", the use of scientific and applied
14 marriage and family theories, methods and procedures for the purpose of
15 describing, **diagnosing**, evaluating and modifying marital, family and individual
16 behavior within the context of marital and family systems, including the context

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

17 of marital formation and dissolution. Marriage and family therapy is based on
18 systems theories, marriage and family development, normal and dysfunctional
19 behavior, human sexuality and psychotherapeutic, marital and family therapy
20 theories and techniques and includes the use of marriage and family therapy
21 theories and techniques in the **diagnosis**, evaluation, assessment and treatment
22 of intrapersonal or interpersonal dysfunctions within the context of marriage and
23 family systems. Marriage and family therapy may also include clinical research
24 into more effective methods for the treatment and prevention of the above-named
25 conditions;

26 (8) "Practice of marital and family therapy", the rendering of professional
27 marital and family therapy services to individuals, family groups and marital
28 pairs, singly or in groups, whether such services are offered directly to the
29 general public or through organizations, either public or private, for a fee,
30 monetary or otherwise.

337.715. 1. Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
2 shall furnish evidence to the division that:

3 (1) The applicant has a master's degree or a doctoral degree in marital
4 and family therapy, or its equivalent, from an acceptable educational institution
5 accredited by a regional accrediting body or accredited by an accrediting body
6 which has been approved by the United States Department of Education;

7 (2) The applicant has twenty-four months of postgraduate supervised
8 clinical experience acceptable to the division, as the division determines by rule;

9 (3) **After August 28, 2008, the applicant shall have completed a**
10 **minimum of three semester hours of graduate level course work in**
11 **diagnostic systems either within the curriculum leading to a degree as**
12 **defined in subdivision (1) of this subsection or as post master's**
13 **graduate level course work. Each applicant shall demonstrate**
14 **supervision of diagnosis as a core component of the postgraduate**
15 **supervised clinical experience as defined in subdivision (2) of this**
16 **subsection;**

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

20 [(4)] (5) The applicant is at least eighteen years of age, is of good moral
21 character, is a United States citizen or has status as a legal resident alien, and
22 has not been convicted of a felony during the ten years immediately prior to

23 application for licensure.

24 2. A licensed marriage and family therapist who has had no violations and
25 no suspensions and no revocation of a license to practice marriage and family
26 therapy in any jurisdiction may receive a license in Missouri provided said
27 marriage and family therapist passes a written examination on Missouri laws and
28 regulations governing the practice of professional counseling as defined in section
29 337.700, and meets one of the following criteria:

30 (1) Is a member in good standing and holds a certification from the
31 Academy of Marriage and Family Therapists;

32 (2) Is currently licensed or certified as a licensed marriage and family
33 therapist in another state, territory of the United States, or the District of
34 Columbia; and

35 (a) Meets the educational standards set forth in subdivision (1) of
36 subsection 1 of this section;

37 (b) Has been licensed for the preceding five years; and

38 (c) Has had no disciplinary action taken against the license for the
39 preceding five years; or

40 (3) Is currently licensed or certified as a marriage and family therapist
41 in another state, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia that
42 extends like privileges for reciprocal licensing or certification to persons licensed
43 by this state with similar qualifications.

44 3. The division shall issue a license to each person who files an
45 application and fee as required by the provisions of sections 337.700 to 337.739,
46 and who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the division that the applicant has
47 complied with the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4) of subsection 1 of this
48 section or with the provisions of subsection 2 of this section.

337.718. 1. Each license issued pursuant to the provisions of sections
2 337.700 to 337.739 shall expire on a renewal date established by the
3 director. The term of licensure shall be twenty-four months; however, the director
4 may establish a shorter term for the first licenses issued pursuant to sections
5 337.700 to 337.739. The division shall renew any license upon application for a
6 renewal and upon payment of the fee established by the division pursuant to the
7 provisions of section 337.712. **Effective August 28, 2008, as a prerequisite**
8 **for renewal, each licensee shall furnish to the committee satisfactory**
9 **evidence of the completion of the requisite number of hours of**
10 **continuing education as defined by rule, which shall be no more than**

11 **forty contact hours biennially. The continuing education requirements**
12 **may be waived by the committee upon presentation to the committee**
13 **of satisfactory evidence of illness or for other good cause.**

14 2. The division may issue temporary permits to practice under
15 extenuating circumstances as determined by the division and defined by rule.

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