

# SENATE BILL NO. 441

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR TRENT.

0125S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

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Section A. Section 337.510, RSMo, is repealed and one new  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

337.510. 1. As used in this section, the following  
2 terms mean:

3 (1) "License", a license, certificate, registration,  
4 permit, accreditation, or military occupational specialty  
5 that enables a person to legally practice an occupation or  
6 profession in a particular jurisdiction;

7 (2) "Military", the Armed Forces of the United States,  
8 including the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps,  
9 Navy, Space Force, National Guard and any other military  
10 branch that is designated by Congress as part of the Armed  
11 Forces of the United States, and all reserve components and  
12 auxiliaries. Such term also includes the military reserves  
13 and militia of any United States territory or state;

14 (3) "Nonresident military spouse", a nonresident  
15 spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the  
16 United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be  
17 transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been  
18 transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent

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

19 state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri,  
20 or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-  
21 of-station basis;

22 (4) "Resident military spouse", a spouse of an active  
23 duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has  
24 been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to the  
25 state of Missouri or an adjacent state and who is a  
26 permanent resident of the state of Missouri, who is  
27 domiciled in the state of Missouri, or who has Missouri as  
28 his or her home of record.

29 2. Each applicant for licensure as a professional  
30 counselor shall furnish evidence to the committee that the  
31 applicant is at least eighteen years of age, is a United  
32 States citizen or is legally present in the United States;  
33 and

34 (1) The applicant has completed a course of study as  
35 defined by the board rule leading to a master's,  
36 specialist's, or doctoral degree with a major in counseling,  
37 except any applicant who has held a license as a  
38 professional counselor in this state or currently holds a  
39 license as a professional counselor in another state shall  
40 not be required to have completed any courses related to  
41 career development; and

42 (2) The applicant has completed acceptable supervised  
43 counseling as defined by board rule. If the applicant has a  
44 master's degree with a major in counseling as defined by  
45 board rule, the applicant shall complete at least two years  
46 of acceptable supervised counseling experience subsequent to  
47 the receipt of the master's degree. The composition and  
48 number of hours comprising the acceptable supervised  
49 counseling experience shall be defined by board rule. An  
50 applicant may substitute thirty semester hours of post

51 master's graduate study for one of the two required years of  
52 acceptable supervised counseling experience if such hours  
53 are clearly related to counseling;

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

59 (4) Upon examination, the applicant is possessed of  
60 requisite knowledge of the profession, including techniques  
61 and applications, research and its interpretation, and  
62 professional affairs and ethics.

63 3. (1) Any person who holds a valid current  
64 professional counselor license issued by another state, a  
65 branch or unit of the military, a territory of the United  
66 States, or the District of Columbia, and who has been  
67 licensed for at least one year in such other jurisdiction,  
68 may submit an application for a professional counselor  
69 license in Missouri along with proof of current licensure  
70 and proof of licensure for at least one year in the other  
71 jurisdiction, to the committee.

72 (2) The committee shall:

73 (a) Within six months of receiving an application  
74 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, waive any  
75 examination, educational, or experience requirements for  
76 licensure in this state for the applicant if it determines  
77 that there were minimum education requirements and, if  
78 applicable, work experience and clinical supervision  
79 requirements in effect and the other state and jurisdiction  
80 verifies that the person met those requirements in order to  
81 be licensed or certified in that state and jurisdiction.

82 The committee may require an applicant to take and pass an  
83 examination specific to the laws of this state; or

84 (b) Within thirty days of receiving an application  
85 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection from a  
86 nonresident military spouse or a resident military spouse,  
87 waive any examination, educational, or experience  
88 requirements for licensure in this state for the applicant  
89 and issue such applicant a license under this subsection if  
90 such applicant otherwise meets the requirements of this  
91 subsection [and section].

92 (3) (a) The committee shall not waive any  
93 examination, educational, or experience requirements for any  
94 applicant who has had his or her license revoked by a  
95 committee outside the state; who is currently under  
96 investigation, who has a complaint pending, or who is  
97 currently under disciplinary action, except as provided in  
98 paragraph (b) of this subdivision, with a committee outside  
99 the state; who does not hold a license in good standing with  
100 a committee outside the state; who has a criminal record  
101 that would disqualify him or her for licensure in Missouri;  
102 or who does not hold a valid current license in the other  
103 jurisdiction on the date the committee receives his or her  
104 application under this subsection [and section].

105 (b) If another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary  
106 action against an applicant, the committee shall determine  
107 if the cause for the action was corrected and the matter  
108 resolved. If the matter has not been resolved by that  
109 jurisdiction, the committee may deny a license until the  
110 matter is resolved.

111 (4) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the  
112 committee from denying a license to an applicant under this  
113 subsection for any reason described in section 337.525.

114 (5) Any person who is licensed under the provisions of  
115 this subsection shall be subject to the committee's  
116 jurisdiction and all rules and regulations pertaining to the  
117 practice as a licensed professional counselor in this state.

118 (6) This subsection shall not be construed to waive  
119 any requirement for an applicant to pay any fees.

120 4. (1) The **executive director of the** committee shall  
121 issue a license to each person who files an application and  
122 fee and who furnishes **satisfactory** evidence [satisfactory to  
123 the committee] that the applicant has complied with the  
124 provisions of [this act and] **sections 337.500 to 337.540,**  
125 has taken and passed a written, open-book examination on  
126 Missouri laws and regulations governing the practice of  
127 professional counseling as defined in section 337.500, **has**  
128 **no criminal record that would disqualify the applicant from**  
129 **licensure in this state, has no discipline of a license**  
130 **outside the state, is not currently under investigation**  
131 **outside the state, has no complaint pending outside the**  
132 **state, and is not currently under disciplinary action**  
133 **outside the state.**

134 (2) The committee shall review and approve or deny all  
135 applications for licensure for which licenses are not  
136 authorized to be issued by the executive director under  
137 subdivision (1) of this subsection unless otherwise  
138 delegated to the executive director by the committee.

139 (3) The division shall issue a provisional  
140 professional counselor license to any applicant who meets  
141 all requirements of this section, but who has not completed  
142 the required acceptable supervised counseling experience and  
143 such applicant may reapply for licensure as a professional  
144 counselor upon completion of such acceptable supervised  
145 counseling experience.

146           5. All persons licensed to practice professional  
147 counseling in this state shall pay on or before the license  
148 renewal date a renewal license fee and shall furnish to the  
149 committee satisfactory evidence of the completion of the  
150 requisite number of hours of continuing education as  
151 required by rule, including two hours of suicide assessment,  
152 referral, treatment, and management training, which shall be  
153 no more than forty hours biennially. The continuing  
154 education requirements may be waived by the committee upon  
155 presentation to the committee of satisfactory evidence of  
156 the illness of the licensee or for other good cause.

157           **6. The committee shall display, or cause to have**  
158 **displayed, the names, addresses, license numbers, and**  
159 **license status for all license holders of all license types**  
160 **on the division's searchable listing of licensees.**

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