

SENATE BILL 2694

By Briggs

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 63, Chapter 22, Part 1, relative to professional counselors, marital and family therapists, and clinical pastoral therapists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-120, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

A professional counselor licensed under this part and designated as a mental health service provider must have:

- (1) Completed coursework specifically related to the diagnosis, treatment, appraisal, and assessment of mental disorders; and
- (2) Completed two (2) years of postgraduate supervised experience required for licensure in a clinical setting that provides substantial opportunities to diagnose, treat, appraise, and assess mental disorders.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-104(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting the following:

- (3) Has completed a supervised field experience as either a practicum or internship;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-104(4), is amended by deleting the language "subsequent to being granted a master's degree" and substituting the language "subsequent to being granted a graduate degree".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-120, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

A professional counselor licensed under this part and designated as a mental health service provider must have:

- (1) Completed coursework specifically related to diagnosis, treatment, appraisal and assessment of mental disorders; and
- (2) Completed the two (2) years of postgraduate supervised experience required for licensure in a clinical setting that provides substantial opportunities to diagnose, treat, appraise, and assess mental disorders.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-121(a), is amended by deleting subdivisions (4) through (6) and substituting the following:

- (4) If an applicant is granted a temporary license, the license shall remain valid for up to four (4) years and shall be eligible for extension at the discretion of the Board.
- (5) The applicant shall notify the board and present supporting documentation demonstrating the satisfactory completion of the required postgraduate supervised experience in a clinical setting. The board shall then grant or deny the license application based on satisfactory completion of all requirements for licensure.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-122(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision.

SECTION 7. For the purpose of promulgating rules this act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes this act takes effect January 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.