

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

A Bill

Act 753 of 2003
HOUSE BILL 1482

5 By: Representative Mahony
6 By: Senators G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ARKANSAS
11 BOARD OF COUNSELING TO USE WHEN ESTABLISHING THE
12 STANDARDS FOR COUNSELING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES FOR THE
16 ARKANSAS BOARD OF COUNSELING TO USE WHEN
17 ESTABLISHING THE STANDARDS FOR
18 COUNSELING.
19
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-27-301 is amended to read as follows:
24 17-27-301. Licensed professional counselor - Qualifications.

25 The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling shall issue a license as
26 a licensed professional counselor to each applicant who files an application
27 upon a form and in the manner that the board prescribes accompanied by a fee
28 as set by the board and who furnishes satisfactory evidence of the following
29 to the board:

- 30 (1) The applicant is not a minor under the laws of Arkansas;
- 31 (2) The applicant is highly regarded in personal character and
32 professional ethics;
- 33 (3) The applicant is not in violation of any of the provisions
34 of this chapter and the rules and regulations adopted under this chapter;
- 35 (4) The applicant has applied for a criminal background check
36 and has not been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any



1 of the offenses listed in § 17-27-313(f);

2 (5)~~(A)~~ The applicant has received a graduate degree from a
3 regionally accredited institution of higher education which is primarily
4 professional counseling in content and has accumulated ~~at least forty-eight~~
5 ~~(48)~~ the graduate semester hours which meet the academic and training content
6 ~~standard~~ standards established by the board.

7 (B) The board shall use the standards for the preparation of
8 counselors prepared by that special professional association nationally as a
9 guide in establishing the standards for counseling;

10 (6) The applicant has three (3) years of supervised full-time
11 experience in professional counseling acceptable to the board. One (1) year
12 of experience may be gained for each thirty (30) graduate semester hours
13 earned beyond the master’s degree, provided that the hours are clearly
14 related to the field of counseling and are acceptable to the board. In no
15 case may the applicant have less than one (1) year of professional
16 experience; and

17 (7) The applicant has declared special competencies and
18 demonstrated professional competence in specialty areas by having passed a
19 written, oral, or situational examination or any combination thereof as the
20 board will prescribe. Upon the examination of credentials, the board, by a
21 majority of the board members present and voting, may consider those
22 credentials adequate evidence of professional competence and recommend to the
23 chairman of the board that a license be approved in that specialty.

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25 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
26 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the current guidelines used
27 for licensure of new applicant is not current under the national accrediting
28 agency standards that became effective January 1, 2001; and that this act is
29 immediately necessary because new applicants need to be licensed to ensure
30 that adequate counseling professionals are available to serve the needs of
31 the citizens of the state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and
32 this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
33 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

34 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

2 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
3 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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APPROVED: 3/27/2003