

45:8B-18

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

("Practicing Marriage Counseling Act"---
revise educational requirements)

WJSA 45: 8B-18

LAWS OF 1979

CHAPTER 425

Bill No. S536

Sponsor(s) Feldman

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate Labor, Industry and Professions

Amended during passage Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly December 17, 1979

Senate April 17, 1979

Date of approval February 11, 1980

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note No

Veto message No

Message on signing Yes

Following were printed:

Reports No

Hearings No

Sponsor's statement:

The purpose of this bill is to exempt qualified members of the clergy who do not have master's degrees in social work from having to have a doctoral degree in another field to qualify to be examined for a marriage counselor's license. A master's degree in a social science would be adequate in lieu of the doctoral degree.

9/1/78

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SENATE, No. 536

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1978 SESSION

By Senator FELDMAN

AN ACT to amend the "Practicing Marriage Counseling Act,"
approved January 10, 1969 (P. L. 1968, c. 401).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 18 of P. L. 1968, c. 401 (C. 45:8B-18) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 18. Any person applying to the board, after January 1, 1970, may
4 be admitted to an examination if he meets the qualifications set
5 forth in section 14 (a), (b) and (c) and provides evidence satis-
6 factory to the board that he has met educational and experimental
7 qualifications as follows:

8 (a) Educational Requirement: At least a master's degree in
9 social work, ****or a post-master's degree in marriage and family-**
9A **counseling,**** or a doctorate in marriage or pastoral counseling,
10 psychology, sociology of the family, family life education, or a
11 closely allied field of study or a doctor of medicine in which it is
12 established by the applicant's transcripts that an equivalent course
13 of study has been successfully completed; the degree to have been
14 obtained from an accredited institution so recognized at the time
15 of granting of such degrees. ***[Qualified members]* ***[*Mem-**
16 **bers* of the clergy, however, are exempted from the requirement**
17 **of a doctoral degree, provided they have a master's degree in one**
18 **of the social sciences or a field related to marriage counseling.]*****

19 (b) Experience Requirements: Five years of full-time counsel-
20 ing experience, or its equivalent, of a character approved by the
21 board, 2 years of which must have been in marriage counseling; 2
22 of the 5 required years must have been under the supervision of a
23 person holding a degree specified in paragraph (a) of this section
24 and who has himself had no less than 5 full-time years of profes-
25 sional experience or the equivalent.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 536

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with Assembly committee amendment

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 10, 1979

The purpose of this bill is to update the educational requirements for taking the marriage counselor's examination, so as to conform to current educational programs and counseling practice.

This bill provides that clergymen need only have a master's degree in any social science in order to meet the educational requirement for taking the exam.

The Assembly Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee's amendment includes a post-master's degree in marriage and family counseling as one of the listed degrees which would satisfy, for those who are not clergymen, the educational requirements for taking the exam.

SENATE LABOR, INDUSTRY AND
PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE. No. 536

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 1978

The purpose of this bill is to exempt members of the clergy who do not have master's degrees in social work from having to have a doctoral degree in another field to qualify to be examined for a marriage counselor's license. A master's degree in a social science would be adequate in lieu of the doctoral degree.

The committee amended the bill to embrace all members of the clergy, rather than just "qualified" clergymen.

2-11-80

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S-536, sponsored by Senator Matthew Feldman (D-Bergen), which amends the "Professional Marriage Counseling Act" to expand the educational requirements for persons to qualify to take the examinations to include individuals with a "post-graduate degree in marriage and family counseling."

Formerly, the educational requirements could be satisfied only by a master's degree in social work or a doctorate in marriage or pastoral counseling, psychology, sociology of the family, family life education or a closely allied field of study."

This bill will permit individuals who have completed a special two-year program in marriage and family counseling offered at Seton Hall University (the only college in New Jersey which offers such a program) to be eligible to qualify for examinations as marriage counselors.

A-881, sponsored by Assemblyman James W. Bornheimer (D-Middlesex), which amends the current statutes to require boards of education to furnish:

- daily transportation for handicapped children who have been placed by the boards of education in out-of-state day programs;
- periodic transportation for handicapped children who have been placed by the boards of education in out-of-state residential programs; and
- summer transportation for children who have been placed in twelve-month special education programs.

The bill makes New Jersey statutes consistent with federal law, which requires that all handicapped children are availed of a free, appropriate public education, including special education and related services, such as transportation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 1980, and the Department of Education intends to use funds from a federal block grant to pay the costs, which have been estimated at \$650,000 annually.

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