

45:8B-35

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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(Professional counselors--licensing)

NJSA: 45:8B-35

LAWS OF: 1997 CHAPTER: 155

BILL NO: S671

SPONSOR(S): Adler and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 5, 1997

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Consumer Affairs

SENATE: Commerce

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage denoted
Second reprint enacted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: March 24, 1997

SENATE: March 18, 1997

DATE OF APPROVAL: July 3, 1997

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:
REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

KBP:pp

NOT RETURNED FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

[Passed Both Houses]

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 671

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 1996

By Senator ADLER, Assemblyman Steele, Assemblywoman Pou,
Assemblyman Greenwald, Assemblywoman Weinberg and
Assemblyman Dalton

1 AN ACT concerning the licensure of professional counselors ¹[and],¹
2 associate counselors ¹, and rehabilitation counselors¹ and amending
3 the title and body of and supplementing¹ P.L.1993, c.340.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 ¹1. The title of P.L.1993, c.340 is amended to read as follows:

9 AN ACT to license professional counselors **[and]**, associate counselors
10 and rehabilitation counselors and amending and supplementing
11 Chapter 8B of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.¹

12 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, Title)

13

14 ¹2. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-35) is amended to read
15 as follows:

16 2. The **[profession]** professions of counseling and rehabilitation
17 counseling in the State of New Jersey **[is]** are determined to affect the
18 public safety and welfare, and to be subject to regulation and control
19 in the public interest in order to protect the public by setting standards
20 of qualification, education, training, and experience for those persons
21 seeking to practice and be licensed as professional counselors **[and]**
22 associate counselors and rehabilitation counselors.¹

23 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.2)

24

25 ¹3. Section 3 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-36) is amended to read
26 as follows:

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly floor amendments adopted March 13, 1997.

² Senate floor amendments adopted March 24, 1997.

1 3. As used in this act:

2 "Board" means the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy
3 Examiners.

4 "Committee" means the Professional Counselor Examiners
5 Committee.

6 "Counseling" means offering to assist or assisting, for a fee or other
7 compensation, an individual or group through a counseling relationship
8 to develop an understanding of interpersonal and intra personal
9 problems and to plan and act on a course of action to restore optimal
10 functioning to that individual or group but does not mean
11 rehabilitation counseling.

12 "Counseling specialty" means a field of specialization in which
13 counseling takes place and which has been designated as a counseling
14 specialty by the committee.

15 "Licensed associate counselor" means an individual who holds a
16 current, valid license as a licensed associate counselor pursuant to this
17 act and who practices counseling under the direct supervision of a
18 licensed professional counselor or a supervisor acceptable to the
19 committee.

20 "Licensed professional counselor" means an individual who holds
21 a current, valid license as a licensed professional counselor pursuant
22 to this act.

23 "Licensed rehabilitation counselor" means an individual who holds
24 a current, valid license as a licensed rehabilitation counselor pursuant
25 to this amendatory and supplementary act.

26 "Rehabilitation counseling" means offering to assist or assisting, for
27 a fee or other compensation, an individual through a rehabilitation
28 counseling relationship to develop an understanding of the personal,
29 social and vocational impact of their disabilities and to plan and
30 implement a rehabilitation program, which may include training to help
31 the person become more independent and employable.¹

32 (cf: P.L.1995, c.366, s.18)

33

34 ¹4. Section 4 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-37) is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 4. There is established a committee of the board to be known as
37 the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee. The committee
38 shall consist of **【five】** six residents of this State, four of whom shall be
39 licensed professional counselors engaged primarily in the practice of
40 counseling **【and】** one of whom shall be a licensed professional
41 counselor engaged primarily in teaching, training or research in
42 counseling and one of whom shall be a licensed rehabilitation
43 counselor primarily engaged in the practice of rehabilitation
44 counseling.

45 The members of the committee shall be appointed by the Governor
46 for terms of three years, except that the terms of the first **【five】** six

1 members of the committee shall be as follows: one member for a term
2 of one year, two members for a term of two years, and ~~two~~ three
3 members for a term of three years. A member of the committee shall
4 not be eligible to succeed himself more than once. Vacancies shall be
5 filled for the unexpired term in the manner provided by the original
6 appointment. The Governor may remove any member of the board for
7 cause, upon notice and opportunity to be heard.

8 The first appointees shall become licensed as soon as practicable
9 after their appointments.

10 Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their
11 services, but may be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incidental
12 to performance of their duties as members of the committee.

13 The committee shall annually elect from its members a chairperson
14 and a vice-chairperson.

15 Regular meetings of the committee shall be held at least once during
16 each quarter of the year and special meetings may be held upon the call
17 of the chairperson or the vice-chairperson in the chairperson's absence.
18 ~~Three~~ Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum and
19 no action shall be taken at a meeting without at least ~~three~~ four
20 votes in accord.¹

21 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.4)

22
23 ¹5. Section 5 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-38) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 5. The committee is authorized to: administer examinations
26 required pursuant to this act; review the content and duration of
27 courses of study offered by colleges and universities for degrees in
28 counseling or rehabilitation counseling, and to establish and maintain
29 a register of colleges and universities whose curricula in counseling
30 or rehabilitation counseling are approved by the committee or an
31 accrediting body acceptable to the committee; establish and maintain
32 a list of recognized subjects and courses of study; and establish
33 minimum requirements therefor which shall be acceptable to the board
34 and the committee.

35 In addition to those records of proceedings and applicants
36 established by the board, the committee shall keep a record of its
37 proceedings and a record of all applicants for licensure, showing for
38 each whether the application is for a license as a licensed professional
39 counselor ~~or~~ licensed rehabilitation counselor, licensed associate
40 counselor or a counseling specialty, the date of application, name, age,
41 education, and other qualifications, place of practice and place of
42 residence, and whether the applicant was rejected or a license or
43 specialty granted, and the date of that action.¹

44 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.5)

45
46 ¹6. Section 6 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-39) is amended to read

1 as follows:

2 6. a. No person shall engage in the practice of counseling as a
3 licensed professional counselor or licensed associate counselor or
4 represent or hold himself out as a licensed professional counselor or
5 licensed associate counselor unless licensed pursuant to this act. No
6 person licensed as a professional counselor or an associate counselor
7 shall engage in the practice of rehabilitation counseling unless licensed
8 as a rehabilitation counselor pursuant to this amendatory and
9 supplementary act.

10 b. No person shall engage in the practice of rehabilitation
11 counseling as a licensed rehabilitation counselor or represent or hold
12 himself out as a licensed rehabilitation counselor unless licensed
13 pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act. No person
14 licensed as a rehabilitation counselor shall engage in the practice of
15 professional counseling unless licensed as a professional counselor
16 pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-40).¹

17 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.6)

18

19 ¹**[1.] 7.**¹ Section 7 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-40) is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 7. Each person applying for licensure as a licensed professional
22 counselor shall make application therefor to the board on the form and
23 in the manner the committee prescribes and the board shall
24 immediately refer each application to the committee for appropriate
25 action. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
26 committee that he:

27 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

28 b. ¹Is of good moral character;

29 c.¹ Has **[**completed a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in
30 a planned educational program, which includes a master's degree or
31 doctorate in counseling from a regionally accredited institution of
32 higher education, of which 45 graduate semester hours are distributed
33 in at least eight of the following areas:

34 (1) Counseling theory and practice;

35 (2) The helping relationship;

36 (3) Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior;

37 (4) Lifestyle and career development;

38 (5) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting;

39 (6) Appraisal of individuals;

40 (7) Social and cultural foundations;

41 (8) Research and evaluation;

42 (9) The counseling profession] ¹received a master's degree or
43 doctorate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education,
44 in subject matter which is primarily counseling in content and which
45 meets the academic and training content standards established by the
46 committee and the board, or the substantial equivalent in both subject

1 matter and extent of training. The committee and the board shall use
2 the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as
3 determined by the committee and the board as a guide in establishing
4 the training standards for counselor licensure] completed a minimum
5 of 60 graduate semester hours in a planned educational program,
6 which includes a master's degree or doctorate in counseling from a
7 regionally accredited institution of higher education, of which 45
8 graduate semester hours are distributed in at least eight of the
9 following areas:

10 (1) Counseling theory and practice;

11 (2) The helping relationship;

12 (3) Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior;

13 (4) Lifestyle and career development;

14 (5) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting;

15 (6) Appraisal of individuals;

16 (7) Social and cultural foundations;

17 (8) Research and evaluation;

18 (9) The counseling profession¹;

19 ¹**[c.] d.**¹ Has had at least three years of supervised full-time
20 counseling experience in a professional counseling setting acceptable
21 to the committee, one year of which may be obtained prior to the
22 granting of the master's degree. The committee shall establish criteria
23 for determining the qualifications and status which may constitute
24 supervised counseling experience. An applicant may eliminate one
25 year of the required supervised counseling experience by substituting
26 30 graduate semester hours beyond the master's degree if those
27 graduate semester hours are clearly related to counseling and are
28 acceptable to the committee. In no case, however, may the applicant
29 have less than one year of supervised professional counseling
30 experience after the granting of the master's degree; and

31 ¹**[d.] e.**¹ Has passed the National ¹**[Certified]**¹ Counselor
32 Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors ¹**[or the**
33 Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination by the Commission on
34 Rehabilitation Counselor Certification]¹.

35 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.7)

36
37 ¹**[2.] 8.**¹ Section 8 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-41) is amended
38 to read as follows:

39 8. Each person applying for licensure as a licensed associate
40 counselor shall make application therefor to the board on the form and
41 in the manner the committee prescribes and the board shall
42 immediately refer each application to the committee for appropriate
43 action. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
44 committee that he:

45 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

46 b. Is of good moral character;

- 1 c.¹ Has **【**completed a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in
2 a planned educational program, which includes a master's degree or
3 doctorate in co
4 unseling from a regionally accredited institution of higher
5 education, of which 45 graduate semester hours are distributed in
6 at least eight of the following areas:
7 (1) Counseling theory and practice;
8 (2) The helping relationship;
9 (3) Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior;
10 (4) Lifestyle and career development;
11 (5) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting;
12 (6) Appraisal of individuals;
13 (7) Social and cultural foundations;
14 (8) Research and evaluation;
15 (9) The counseling profession¹ **【**received a master's degree or
16 doctorate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education,
17 in subject matter which is primarily counseling in content and which
18 meets the academic and training content standards established by the
19 committee and the board, or the substantial equivalent in both subject
20 matter and extent of training. The committee and the board shall use
21 the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as
22 determined by the committee and the board as a guide in establishing
23 the training standards for counselor licensure**】** completed a minimum
24 of 60 graduate semester hours in a planned educational program,
25 which includes a master's degree or doctorate in counseling from a
26 regionally accredited institution of higher education, of which 45
27 graduate semester hours are distributed in at least eight of the
28 following areas:
29 (1) Counseling theory and practice;
30 (2) The helping relationship;
31 (3) Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior;
32 (4) Lifestyle and career development;
33 (5) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting;
34 (6) Appraisal of individuals;
35 (7) Social and cultural foundations;
36 (8) Research and evaluation;
37 (9) The counseling profession¹; and
38 ¹**【c.】** d.¹ Has passed **【**an examination approved by the
39 committee¹ the National Counselor Examination of the National
40 Board for Certified Counselors¹.
41 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.8)
42
43 ¹9. (New section) Each person applying for licensure as a
44 rehabilitation counselor shall make application therefor to the board on
45 the form and in the manner the committee prescribes and the board
46 shall immediately refer each application to the committee for

1 appropriate action. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory
2 to the committee that he:

3 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

4 b. Is of good moral character;

5 c. Has completed a planned educational program in rehabilitation
6 counseling approved by the committee, which includes a master's
7 degree in rehabilitation counseling from a regionally accredited
8 institution of higher education;

9 d. Has had at least three years of supervised full-time rehabilitation
10 counseling experience in a rehabilitation counseling setting acceptable
11 to the committee, one year of which may be obtained prior to the
12 granting of the master's degree. The committee shall establish criteria
13 for determining the qualifications and status which may constitute
14 supervised rehabilitation counseling experience. An applicant may
15 eliminate one year of the required supervised rehabilitation counseling
16 experience by substituting 30 graduate semester hours beyond the
17 master's degree if those graduate semester hours are clearly related to
18 rehabilitation counseling and are acceptable to the committee. In no
19 case, however, may the applicant have less than one year of supervised
20 rehabilitation counseling experience after the granting of the master's
21 degree; and

22 e. Has passed the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination
23 by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.¹

24
25 ¹**[3.] 10.**¹ (New section) ¹**[During the first 360 days after the**
26 **effective date of this 1995 amendatory and supplementary act, the**
27 **board shall issue to any individual upon application a professional**
28 **counselor license, provided that the applicant meets the requirements**
29 **of subsections a. and b. of section 7 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-40)**
30 **and the board shall have the power to consider experience of the**
31 **applicant prior to application for licensure as a waiver of all or part**
32 **of the supervised experience requirements of subsection c. of that**
33 **section 7. If the prior experience of the applicant does not meet all the**
34 **requirements of that subsection c. then the applicant shall be issued an**
35 **associate counselor license with acceptable experience credited toward**
36 **the experience requirements of that subsection c. The board shall**
37 **wave written examination of these applicants, but may require oral or**
38 **situational examinations, or both.]**

39 a. The board shall issue to any individual, upon application during
40 the first 360 days after the effective date of this amendatory and
41 supplementary act, a professional counselor license, if the applicant
42 has either:

43 (1) completed a minimum of 45 graduate semester hours, which
44 includes a master's degree or doctorate from a regionally accredited
45 institution of higher education, in subject matter that is primarily
46 counseling in content; and has documented five years of experience in

1 the practice of professional counseling acceptable to the committee
2 prior to the date of application for licensure. The board shall waive
3 written examination of these applicants; or

4 (2) completed fewer than 45 semester hours, which includes a
5 master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher
6 education, in subject matter that is primarily counseling in content; and
7 has documented five years of experience in the practice of professional
8 counseling acceptable to the committee prior to the date of application
9 for licensure. The board shall require that the applicant provide
10 evidence that he has passed the National Counselor Examination of the
11 National Board for Certified Counselors.

12 b. The board shall issue to any individual, upon application during
13 the first 360 days after the effective date of this amendatory and
14 supplementary act, a rehabilitation counselor license if the applicant
15 has either:

16 (1) completed a minimum of 45 graduate semester hours, which
17 includes a master's degree or doctorate from a regionally accredited
18 institution of higher education, in subject matter that is primarily
19 counseling or rehabilitation counseling in content; and has documented
20 five years of experience in the practice of rehabilitation counseling
21 acceptable to the committee prior to the date of application for
22 licensure. The board shall waive written examination of these
23 applicants; or

24 (2) completed a master's degree of fewer than 45 semester hours
25 or bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher
26 education in subject matter that is primarily counseling or a related
27 field in content; has documented 10 years of experience, during the
28 last 15 years immediately preceding the enactment date of this
29 amendatory and supplementary act, in the practice of rehabilitation
30 counseling acceptable to the committee; and provides evidence that he
31 has passed the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination by the
32 Commission on Rehabilitation Certification.¹

33
34 ¹11. Section 9 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-42) is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 9. The committee shall review the qualifications of each person
37 who applies for licensure. No applicant shall be licensed by the board
38 unless a majority of the full committee first determines that the
39 applicant has met the education and experience requirements and
40 performed satisfactorily on the appropriate examination required
41 pursuant to this act. All applicants who are determined to be qualified
42 and are recommended for licensure by the committee shall be
43 considered for licensure by the board. Licenses shall be issued for a
44 period of two years and may be renewed biennially.

45 The committee is authorized to make recommendations to the board
46 with the final decisions to be made by the board. The board is

1 authorized to review the actions taken by the committee with respect
2 to the committee's evaluation and examination of applicants for
3 licensure as licensed professional counselors **[or]** licensed associate
4 counselors or licensed rehabilitation counselors but the board may
5 reverse, modify or fail to implement any determination by the
6 committee with an affirmative vote of a majority of the board.¹
7 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.9)

8
9 ¹12. Section 13 of P.L.1993, C.340 (C.45:8B-46) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 13. The board may grant a license to practice counseling or
12 rehabilitation counseling to any person who at the time of application
13 is licensed or certified by an agency located in another state, territory
14 or jurisdiction, if in the opinion of the committee the requirements of
15 that licensure or certification are substantially similar to the
16 requirements of this act.¹
17 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.13)

18
19 ¹13. Section 15 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-48) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 15. Nothing in this act shall be construed to apply to:

22 a. The activities and services of qualified members of other
23 professions, including physicians, psychologists, registered nurses,
24 marriage and family therapists, attorneys, social workers or any other
25 professionals licensed by the State, when acting within the scope of
26 their profession and doing work of a nature consistent with their
27 training, provided they do not hold themselves out to the public as
28 possessing a license issued pursuant to this act or represent themselves
29 by any professional title regulated by this act.

30 b. The activities, services and use of an official title on the part of
31 a person employed as a counselor or rehabilitation counselor by any
32 federal, State, county, or municipal agency; or public or private
33 educational institution, but only when these persons are performing
34 counseling **[or counseling-related activities]**, rehabilitation counseling
35 or activities related to counseling or rehabilitation counseling within
36 the scope of their employment.

37 c. The activities and services of a student, intern or trainee in
38 counseling or rehabilitation counseling pursuing a course of study in
39 counseling or rehabilitation counseling in a regionally accredited
40 institution of higher education or training institution, if these activities
41 are performed under supervision and constitute a part of the
42 supervised course of study, and if the person is clearly designated a
43 "Counselor intern" or a "Rehabilitation counselor intern".

44 d. The activities and services in this State of a nonresident person
45 rendered on not more than 30 days during any calendar year, if that
46 person is duly authorized to perform those activities and services

1 under the laws of his residence.

2 e. The activities and services of a rabbi, priest, minister, Christian
3 Science practitioner or clergyman of any religious denomination or
4 sect, if those activities and services are within the scope of the
5 performance of his regular or specialized ministerial duties and for
6 which no separate charge is made, or when these activities are
7 performed with or without charge, for or under auspices or
8 sponsorship, individually or in conjunction with others, of an
9 established and legally cognizable church, denomination, or sect, and
10 when the person rendering the service remains accountable to the
11 established authority thereof.

12 f. The activities, services, titles and descriptions of persons
13 employed as professionals or volunteers in the practice of counseling
14 or rehabilitation counseling for public or private nonprofit
15 organizations or charities.

16 g. The activities and services of persons employed as peer
17 counselors in organizations devoted to prevention of alcoholism, drug
18 abuse, or relief of emotional effects of rape or other crimes, and
19 telephone "hotline" organizations.¹

20 (cf: P.L.1995, c.366, s.19)

21

22 ¹14. Section 16 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-49) is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 16. Any communication between a licensed professional counselor
25 **[or]**, licensed associate counselor or licensed rehabilitation counselor
26 and the person or persons counseled while performing counseling or
27 rehabilitation counseling shall be confidential and its secrecy
28 preserved. This privilege shall not be subject to waiver, except when
29 disclosure is required by State law or when the licensed professional
30 counselor **[or]**, licensed associate counselor or licensed rehabilitation
31 counselor is a party defendant to a civil, criminal or disciplinary action
32 arising from that counseling or rehabilitation counseling, in which case
33 the waiver of the privilege accorded by this section shall be limited to
34 that action.¹

35 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.16)

36

37 ¹15. Section 17 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-50) is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 17. No licensed associate counselor shall practice without direct
40 supervision by a licensed professional counselor or a supervisor
41 acceptable to the committee. The plan for supervision of the licensed
42 associate counselor shall be approved by the committee prior to any
43 actual performance of counseling by the licensed associate counselor.¹

44 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.17)

45

46 ²¹16. Section 20 of P.L.1993, c.340 is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 20. This act shall take effect immediately but shall remain
3 inoperative for 180 days **【and this act shall expire if any licensed
4 professional counselor or licensed associate counselor or any group
5 thereof, either directly or indirectly, attempts, by any means, to secure
6 mandatory reimbursement by insurers of their services by law,
7 regulation or other means in this State】.**¹

8 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.20)**】**²

9

10 ¹**【4.】** ²**【17. ¹】** ^{16. ²} This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

14

15 Modifies licensure requirement for professional counselors and
16 associate counselors and establishes licensure requirements for
17 rehabilitation counselors.

1 meets the academic and training content standards established by the
2 committee and the board, or the substantial equivalent in both subject
3 matter and extent of training. The committee and the board shall use
4 the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as
5 determined by the committee and the board as a guide in establishing
6 the training standards for counselor licensure; and

7 c. Has passed an examination approved by the committee.
8 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.8)

9
10 3. (New section) During the first 360 days after the effective date
11 of this 1995 amendatory and supplementary act, the board shall issue
12 to any individual upon application a professional counselor license,
13 provided that the applicant meets the requirements of subsections a.
14 and b. of section 7 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-40) and the board
15 shall have the power to consider experience of the applicant prior to
16 application for licensure as a waiver of all or part of the supervised
17 experience requirements of subsection c. of that section 7. If the prior
18 experience of the applicant does not meet all the requirements of that
19 subsection c. then the applicant shall be issued an associate counselor
20 license with acceptable experience credited toward the experience
21 requirements of that subsection c. The board shall waive written
22 examination of these applicants, but may require oral or situational
23 examinations, or both.

24
25 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

26
27
28 *SPONSORS'* STATEMENT
29

30 This bill provides that the State Board of Marriage Counselor
31 Examiners and the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee shall
32 be responsible for establishing the content of academic and training
33 standards for professional counselors and associate counselors. To
34 become a professional or associate counselor, an applicant would still
35 be required to have a master's degree or doctorate from a regionally
36 accredited institution of higher education.

37 Applicants seeking to be a professional counselor must currently
38 pass the National Certified Counselor Examination. This bill allows
39 an applicant to take either that test or the Certified Rehabilitation
40 Counselor Examination to qualify.

41 The bill also provides for the grandfathering of applicants who meet
42 the education and experience requirements to be licensed professional
43 counselors without an examination.

ASSEMBLY CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND REGULATED
PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 671

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 10, 1997

The Assembly Consumer Affairs and Regulated Professions Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 671.

This bill provides that the State Board of Marriage Counselor Examiners and the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee shall be responsible for establishing the content of academic and training standards for professional counselors and associate counselors. The board and committee must use the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as a guide in establishing standards for counselor licensing. To become a licensed professional or associate counselor, an applicant would still be required to have a master's degree or doctorate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in subject matter which is primarily counseling in content.

Applicants seeking to become a licensed professional counselor must currently pass the National Certified Counselor Examination. This bill allows an applicant to take either that test or the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination to qualify.

The bill also provides for the "grandfathering" of applicants who meet the education and experience requirements to be licensed professional counselors without a written examination, except that the board may require an oral or situational examination, or both. The board may waive all or part of the supervised experience requirements for licensure based on an applicant's experience.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 671

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 1996

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 671.

This bill provides that the State Board of Marriage Counselor Examiners and the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee shall be responsible for establishing the content of academic and training standards for professional counselors and associate counselors. The board and committee must use the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as a guide in establishing standards for counselor licensing. To become a licensed professional or associate counselor, an applicant would still be required to have a master's degree or doctorate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in subject matter which is primarily counseling in content.

Applicants seeking to be a licensed professional counselor must currently pass the National Certified Counselor Examination. This bill allows an applicant to take either that test or the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination to qualify.

The bill also provides for the grandfathering of applicants who meet the education and experience requirements to be licensed professional counselors without a written examination, except that the board may require an oral or situational examination, or both. The board may consider an applicant's experience as a waiver of all or part of the supervised experience requirements for licensure as a professional counselor.