

**H. B. 2708**

(By Delegates Skinner, Fleischauer, Reynolds, Sponaugle  
Guthrie, Folk, Pushkin and McCuskey)

[Introduced February 12, 2015; referred to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §30-21-7, §30-21-7b and §30-21-7d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §30-30-8, §30-30-10, §30-30-12 and §30-30-14 of said code; and to amend and reenact §30-31-8 and §30-31-9 of said code, all relating to professions and occupations; requiring various professionals who provide mental health-related services, including psychologists, licensed school psychologists, marriage and family therapists, professional clinical counselors and clinical social workers who begin graduate study on or after January 1, 2016 to complete a minimum number of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment, treatment and management before that person may be issued a license; and requiring a person licensed in these professions or an applicant for licensure who begins graduated study prior to January 1, 2016, to take a six hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment and management in order to renew that person's license.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §30-21-7, §30-21-7b and §30-21-7d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,

1 be amended and reenacted; that §30-30-8, §30-30-10, §30-30-12 and §30-30-14 of said code be  
2 amended and reenacted; and that §30-31-8 and §30-31-9 of said code be amended and reenacted,  
3 all to read as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 21. PSYCHOLOGISTS; SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

5 **§30-21-7. Qualifications of applicants; exceptions; applications; fee.**

6 (a) To be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of psychology, the applicant must:

7 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;

8 (2) Be of good moral character;

9 (3) Be a holder of a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent or a master's degree in  
10 psychology from an accredited institution of higher learning, with adequate course study at ~~such~~ the  
11 institution in psychology, the adequacy of any such course study to be determined by the board;

12 (4) When the degree held is a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent, have at least one  
13 year's experience subsequent to receiving said degree in the performance of any of the psychological  
14 services described in subdivision (e), section two of this article, including those activities excluded  
15 from the definition of the term "practice of psychology" in said subdivision (e), and, when the degree  
16 held is a master's degree, have at least five years' experience subsequent to receiving said degree in  
17 the performance of any of the psychological services described in said subdivision (e), including  
18 those activities excluded from the definition of the term "practice of psychology" in said subdivision  
19 (e);

20 (5) Have passed the examination prescribed by the board, which examination shall cover the  
21 basic subject matter of psychology and psychological skills and techniques;

22 (6) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude; and

1 (7) Not, within the next preceding six months, have taken and failed to pass the examination  
2 required by subdivision (5), subsection (a) of this section.

3 (8) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
4 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
5 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior  
6 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
7 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
8 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision.

9 (b) The following persons shall be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of  
10 psychology without examination:

11 (1) Any applicant who holds a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent from an  
12 institution of higher learning, with adequate course study at ~~such~~ the institution in psychology and  
13 who is a diplomate of the "American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology"; and

14 (2) Any person who holds a license or certificate to engage in the practice of psychology  
15 issued by any other state, the requirements for which license or certificate are found by the board to  
16 be at least as great as those provided in this article.

17 (c) Any person who is engaged in the practice of psychology in this state, or is engaged in  
18 any of the activities described in subdivision (e), (1), (2) or (3), section two of this article, in this  
19 state, on the effective date of this article and has been so engaged for a period of two consecutive  
20 years immediately prior thereto shall be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of psychology  
21 without examination and without meeting the requirements of subdivision (4), subsection (a) of this  
22 section, if application for ~~such~~ the license is made within six months after the effective date of this

1 article and if ~~such~~ the person meets the requirements of subdivisions (1), (2), (3) and (6), subsection  
2 (a) of this section: *Provided*, That an equivalent of a master's degree in psychology may be  
3 considered by the board, only for the purpose of this subsection (c), as meeting the requirements of  
4 subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section.

5 (d) Any applicant for any ~~such~~ license shall submit an application therefor at ~~such~~ the time  
6 (subject to the time limitation set forth in subsection (c) of this section), in ~~such~~ the manner, on ~~such~~  
7 forms and containing ~~such~~ information as the board may from time to time by reasonable rule and  
8 regulation prescribe, and pay to the board an application fee.

9 **§30-21-7b. Eligibility for licensed school psychologist.**

10 To meet minimum requirements for this license the applicant must:

11 (1) Have obtained a valid certificate of school psychology granted by the State  
12 Superintendent of Schools, have obtained a certificate of advanced study in school psychology and  
13 obtained a master's degree in school psychology from a board-approved institution of higher  
14 education, or have received equivalent training as determined by the board;

15 (2) Have completed at least three academic years of supervised experience in school  
16 psychology which includes a one year post degree internship or externship towards completion of  
17 the requirements for a certificate of advance study in school psychology or similar designation  
18 approved by the board: *Provided*, That ~~such~~ the supervised experience shall include at least one face  
19 to face meeting between the supervisor and supervisee per month.

20 (3) Have passed a standardized national examination in school psychology promulgated by  
21 the National Association of School Psychologists or other similar organizations and approved as a  
22 standardized testing vehicle for school psychologists by the board;

1 (4) Have passed an oral examination conducted by the board; ~~and~~

2 (5) Complete appropriate application and other forms, provide evidence of credentials, and  
3 pay appropriate fees as determined by the board; and

4 (6) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
5 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
6 treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the applicant or licensee has met  
7 the requirements of this subdivision.

8 **§30-21-7d. Eligibility for current school psychologist.**

9 (1) Any person who holds a current certificate of advanced study and has the equivalent of  
10 three academic years experience in school psychology or any licensed psychologist who has been  
11 approved by the state Department of Education on the effective date of this section ~~shall~~ may not be  
12 required to comply with the provisions of section seven-b, article twenty-one, chapter thirty of this  
13 code. ~~Such~~ Those persons shall submit appropriate documentation of credentials to the board,  
14 application form, and pay an application fee: *Provided*, That ~~such~~ the applicants pass an oral exam  
15 given by the board of psychology.

16 (2) ~~Such~~ Persons seeking eligibility as a licensed school psychologist independent  
17 practitioner must meet the provisions of section seven-b of this article, must have completed the  
18 equivalency of two years supervised experience and shall complete an oral examination before the  
19 board, submit required documentation, pay appropriate fees and complete additional supervision and  
20 training requirements as determined by the board. Applicants seeking eligibility pursuant to this  
21 section must make application on or before July 1, 1992.

22 (3) A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior to January 1, 2016,

1 shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide assessment,  
2 treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the applicant or licensee has met  
3 the requirements of this subdivision.

4 **ARTICLE 30. SOCIAL WORKERS.**

5 **§30-30-8. License to practice as an independent clinical social worker.**

6 To be eligible for a license to practice as an independent clinical social worker, the applicant  
7 must:

8 (1) Submit an application to the board;

9 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

10 (3) Be of good moral character;

11 (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council  
12 on social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as defined  
13 by the board;

14 (5) Have completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or  
15 post-master's clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;

16 (6) Have practiced clinical social work for at least two years in full-time employment, or  
17 three thousand hours under the supervision of an independent clinical social worker, or clinical  
18 supervision that is found by the board to be equivalent;

19 (7) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

20 (8) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board with  
21 three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

22 (9) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article

1 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process,  
2 which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an acknowledged  
3 substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

4 (10) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
5 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

6 (11) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense  
7 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
8 unreversed; ~~and~~

9 (12) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
10 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
11 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior  
12 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
13 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
14 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision.

15 ~~(12)~~ (13) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

16 **§30-30-10. License to practice as a certified social worker.**

17 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice as certified social worker, the applicant must:

18 (1) Submit an application to the board;

19 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

20 (3) Be of good moral character;

21 (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council  
22 on social work education;

1 (5) Have practiced social work for at least two-years post-master's experience in full-time  
2 employment or earned three thousand hours of post-masters social work experience;

3 (6) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

4 (7) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board with  
5 three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

6 (8) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
7 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process,  
8 which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an acknowledged  
9 substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

10 (9) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
11 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

12 (10) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense  
13 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
14 unreversed; ~~and~~

15 (11) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
16 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
17 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior  
18 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
19 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
20 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

21 ~~(11)~~ (12) Meet other additional requirements as established by the board.

22 (b) A certified social worker may engage in the practice of clinical social work, if that

1 certified social worker has:

2 (1) Obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on  
3 social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as defined by  
4 the board;

5 (2) Has completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or post-master's  
6 clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;

7 (3) Has contracted, in writing, with a licensed clinical social worker who shall assume  
8 responsibility for and supervise the certified social worker's practice as directed by the board by  
9 promulgation of legislative rules;

10 (4) Is an employee of an institution or organization in which the certified social worker has  
11 no direct or indirect interest other than employment.

12 (c) A certified social worker may not practice clinical social work until his or her contract  
13 has been approved by the board, and shall cease the practice of clinical social work immediately  
14 upon the termination of the contract. At the termination of the contract, the certified social worker  
15 shall apply for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker or request an extension of the contract  
16 from the board.

17 **§30-30-12. License to practice as a licensed graduate social worker.**

18 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice as a graduate social worker, the applicant must:

19 (1) Submit an application to the board;

20 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

21 (3) Be of good moral character;

22 (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council

1 on social work education;

2 (5) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

3 (6) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board with  
4 three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

5 (7) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
6 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process,  
7 which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an acknowledged  
8 substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

9 (8) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
10 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

11 (9) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense for  
12 which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
13 unreversed; ~~and~~

14 (10) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
15 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
16 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior  
17 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
18 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
19 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

20 ~~(10)~~ (11) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

21 (b) A licensed graduate social worker may engage in the practice of clinical social work, if  
22 he or she has:

1 (1) Obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on  
2 social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented course work as defined by  
3 the board;

4 (2) Has completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or post-master's  
5 clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;

6 (3) Has contracted, in writing, with a licensed clinical social worker who shall assume  
7 responsibility for and supervise the certified social worker's practice as directed by the board by  
8 promulgation of legislative rules;

9 (4) Be employed by an institution or organization in which the graduate social worker has  
10 no direct or indirect interest other than employment.

11 (c) A graduate social worker may not practice clinical social work until this contract has been  
12 approved by the board, and shall cease the practice of clinical social work immediately upon the  
13 termination of the contract. At the termination of the contract, the graduate social worker shall apply  
14 for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker or request an extension of the contract  
15 from the board.

16 **§30-30-14. License to practice as a social worker.**

17 To be eligible for a license to practice as a social worker, the applicant must:

18 (1) Submit an application to the board;

19 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

20 (3) Be of good moral character;

21 (4) Have a baccalaureate degree in social work from a program accredited by the council on  
22 social work education;

1 (5) Have passed an examination approved by the board;

2 (6) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board with  
3 three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

4 (7) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
5 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process,  
6 which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an acknowledged  
7 substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

8 (8) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
9 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

10 (9) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense for  
11 which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
12 unreversed; and

13 (10) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
14 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
15 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior  
16 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
17 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
18 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

19 ~~(10)~~ (11) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

20 **ARTICLE 31. LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS.**

21 **§30-31-8. Requirements for license to practice counseling.**

22 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice professional counseling, an applicant must:

- 1 (1) Be of good moral character;
- 2 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;
- 3 (3) Be a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;
- 4 (4) Pay the applicable fee;
- 5 (5)(A)(i) Have earned a master's degree in an accredited counseling program or in a field  
6 closely related to an accredited counseling program as determined by the board, or have received  
7 training equivalent to such degree as may be determined by the board; and
- 8 (ii) Have at least two years of supervised professional experience in counseling of such a  
9 nature as is designated by the board after earning a master's degree or equivalent; or
- 10 (B)(i) Have earned a doctorate degree in an accredited counseling program or in a field  
11 closely related to an accredited counseling program as determined by the board, or have received  
12 training equivalent to such degree as may be determined by the board; and
- 13 (ii) Have at least one year of supervised professional experience in counseling of such a  
14 nature as is designated by the board after earning a doctorate degree or equivalent;
- 15 (6) Have passed a standardized national certification examination in counseling approved by  
16 the board;
- 17 (7) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude under the laws  
18 of any jurisdiction:
- 19 (A) If the applicant has never been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral  
20 turpitude, the applicant shall submit letters of recommendation from three persons not related to the  
21 applicant and a sworn statement from the applicant stating that he or she has never been convicted  
22 of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; or

1 (B) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, it  
2 is a rebuttable presumption that the applicant is unfit for licensure unless he or she submits  
3 competent evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of a licensed  
4 professional counselor as may be established by the production of:

5 (i) Documentary evidence including a copy of the relevant release or discharge order,  
6 evidence showing compliance with all conditions of probation or parole, evidence showing that at  
7 least one year has elapsed since release or discharge without subsequent conviction, and letters of  
8 reference from three persons who have been in contact with the applicant since his or her release or  
9 discharge; and

10 (ii) Any collateral evidence and testimony as may be requested by the board which shows the  
11 nature and seriousness of the crime, the circumstances relative to the crime or crimes committed and  
12 any mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the crime or crimes and any other  
13 evidence necessary for the board to judge present fitness for licensure or whether licensure will  
14 enhance the likelihood that the applicant will commit the same or similar offenses;

15 (8) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
16 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant who has had at least two  
17 continuous years of uninterrupted sobriety in an active recovery process, which may, in the discretion  
18 of the board, be evidenced by participation in a twelve-step program or other similar group or  
19 process, may be considered; and

20 (9) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
21 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
22 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior

1 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
2 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
3 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

4 ~~(9)~~ (10) Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board.

5 (b) A person who holds a license or other authorization to practice counseling issued by  
6 another state, the qualifications for which license or other authorization are determined by the board  
7 to be at least substantially equivalent to the license requirements in this article, is eligible for  
8 licensure.

9 (c) A person seeking licensure under the provisions of this section shall submit an application  
10 on a form prescribed by the board and pay all applicable fees.

11 (d) A person who has been continually licensed under this article since 1987, pursuant to  
12 prior enactments permitting waiver of certain examination and other requirements, is eligible for  
13 renewal under the provisions of this article.

14 (e) A license to practice professional counseling issued by the board prior to July 1, 2009,  
15 shall for all purposes be considered a license issued under this article: *Provided*, That a person  
16 holding a license issued prior to July 1, 2009, must renew the license pursuant to the provisions of  
17 this article.

18 **§30-31-9. Requirements for a license to practice marriage and family therapy.**

19 (a) To be eligible for a license to practice marriage and family therapy, an applicant must:

20 (1) Be of good moral character;

21 (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;

22 (3) Be a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;

- 1           (4) Pay the applicable fee;
- 2           (5)(A)(i) Have earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from a program  
3 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, the  
4 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs, or a comparable  
5 accrediting body as approved by the board, or in a field closely related to an accredited marriage and  
6 family therapy program as determined by the board, or have received training equivalent to such  
7 degree as may be determined by the board; and
- 8           (ii) Have at least two years of supervised professional experience in marriage and family  
9 therapy of such a nature as is designated by the board after earning a master's degree or equivalent;  
10 or
- 11          (B) (i) Have earned a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program  
12 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, the  
13 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs, or a comparable  
14 accrediting body as approved by the board, or in a field closely related to an accredited marriage and  
15 family therapy program as determined by the board, or have received training equivalent to such  
16 degree as may be determined by the board; and
- 17          (ii) Have at least one year of supervised professional experience in marriage and family  
18 therapy of such a nature as is designated by the board after earning a doctorate degree or equivalent;
- 19          (6) Have passed a standardized national certification examination in marriage and family  
20 therapy as approved by the board;
- 21          (7) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude under the laws  
22 of any jurisdiction:

1 (A) If the applicant has never been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral  
2 turpitude, the applicant shall submit letters of recommendation from three persons not related to the  
3 applicant and a sworn statement from the applicant stating that he or she has never been convicted  
4 of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude; or

5 (B) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, it  
6 is a rebuttable presumption that the applicant is unfit for licensure unless he or she submits  
7 competent evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of a person  
8 licensed to practice marriage and family therapy as may be established by the production of:

9 (i) Documentary evidence including a copy of the relevant release or discharge order,  
10 evidence showing compliance with all conditions of probation or parole, evidence showing that at  
11 least one year has elapsed since release or discharge without subsequent conviction, and letters of  
12 reference from three persons who have been in contact with the applicant since his or her release or  
13 discharge; and

14 (ii) Any collateral evidence and testimony as may be requested by the board which shows the  
15 nature and seriousness of the crime, the circumstances relative to the crime or crimes committed and  
16 any mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the crime or crimes, and any other  
17 evidence necessary for the board to judge present fitness for licensure or whether licensure will  
18 enhance the likelihood that the applicant will commit the same or similar offenses;

19 (8) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser as these terms are defined in section eleven, article  
20 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant who has had at least two  
21 continuous years of uninterrupted sobriety in an active recovery process, which may, in the discretion  
22 of the board, be evidenced by participation in a twelve-step program or other similar group or

1 process, may be considered; ~~and~~

2       (9) Any applicant who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete as  
3 a condition of licensure a minimum of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment,  
4 treatment and management. A licensee or applicant for licensure who begins graduate study prior  
5 to January 1, 2016, shall complete a six-hour continuing education course in best practices for  
6 suicide assessment, treatment and management. The board may not issue a license until the  
7 applicant or licensee has met the requirements of this subdivision; and

8       ~~(9)~~ (10) Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board.

9       (b) A person who holds a license or other authorization to practice marriage and family  
10 therapy issued by another state, the qualifications for which license or other authorization are  
11 determined by the board to be at least substantially equivalent to the license requirements in this  
12 article, is eligible for licensure.

13       (c) A person seeking licensure under the provisions of this section shall submit an application  
14 on a form prescribed by the board and pay all applicable fees.

15       (d) A person who is licensed for five years as of July 1, 2010 and has substantially similar  
16 qualifications as required by subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)(A)(i) or (5)(B)(i), (7) and (8) of  
17 subsection (a) of this section is eligible for a license to practice marriage and family therapy until  
18 July 1, 2012, and is eligible for renewal under section ten.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require various professionals who provide mental health-related services, including psychologists, licensed school psychologists, marriage and family therapists, professional clinical counselors and clinical social workers who begin graduate study on or after January 1, 2016 to complete a minimum number of fifteen contact hours of course work in suicide assessment, treatment and management before that person may be issued a license. The bill

also requires a person licensed in these professions or an applicant for licensure who begins graduated study prior to January 1, 2016, to take a six hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment and management in order to renew that person's license.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.