
COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

- Permits an applicant for a professional clinical counselor's license or a professional counselor's license to have a degree from any counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), rather than from specified CACREP programs or temporarily approved programs as under current law.
- Requires an applicant for a professional clinical counselor's license or a professional counselor's license to participate in a clinical counseling internship rather than a counseling internship as required under current law.
- Allows the Counselors Professional Standards Committee of the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to issue a license by endorsement to a person who does not have a graduate degree in counseling if the person is authorized to practice in another state and meets specified requirements.
- Reduces, from 30 to 15, the number of hours of continuing education that a person holding a certificate of registration as a social work assistant must complete as a condition of renewing the certificate of registration.
- Requires the Board to establish a schedule of deadlines for biennially renewing a license or certificate of registration issued under the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Law.
- Eliminates a requirement that a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist prominently display the person's license in a particular location and manner.

Licensure of counselors

(R.C. 4757.18, 4757.22, 4757.23, and 4757.25)

Degree requirement

The bill allows an applicant for a professional clinical counselor license or a professional counselor license to have a graduate degree from a counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) instead of specific types of counseling programs as under current law. Under current law, if an applicant has a graduate degree from a mental health counseling program in Ohio, it must be either temporarily approved by the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board in accordance with rules adopted by the Board or be from one of the following CACREP programs:

- A clinical mental health counseling program;
- A clinical rehabilitation counseling program;
- An addiction counseling program.

Under continuing law, an applicant also must satisfy additional requirements to receive a license, including completing specialized counselor classwork, participating in an internship, and passing an examination.

Clinical internship

Under continuing law an applicant for a professional clinical counselor license or a professional counselor license must complete specified training. The bill requires an applicant to include participation in a clinical counseling internship as part of those training requirements. Currently, an applicant must participate in a counseling internship.

Licensure by endorsement

The bill allows the Board's Counselors Professional Standards Committee to issue a license by endorsement to a person who does not have a graduate degree in counseling if the person is authorized to practice in another state and meets all of the following requirements:

- The person has a graduate degree that demonstrates an education in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders with coursework comparable to that which is required for a clinical mental health counseling degree from a CACREP accredited program;
- The person has continuously engaged in the practice of professional counseling in the other state and has not been disciplined by the state regulatory authority for a period of five years or more immediately preceding the application date;
- The person engaged in a scope of practice in the other state comparable to the scope of practice associated with the license the person is requesting;
- The person's authorization to practice in the other state is in good standing;
- The person achieves a passing score on the examination required by the Board for licensure as a professional clinical counselor or a professional counselor.

In the case of an out-of-state applicant seeking a professional clinical counselor's license, the bill requires the applicant to complete at least 750 hours of supervised experience approved by the Committee.

Under current law, the Board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any state that regulates individuals practicing in the same professions that are regulated by Ohio law, provided the Board finds that the state has requirements substantially equivalent to the requirements in Ohio. Under a reciprocal agreement, the CSW Board grants a license or certificate of registration to a resident of the other state whose practice is currently authorized by that state, and that state's regulatory body agrees to authorize the appropriate practice of any Ohio resident who is authorized to practice in Ohio. The Board's professional standards committees also may, by endorsement, issue the appropriate license or certificate of registration to a resident of a state with which the Board does not have a reciprocal agreement, if the person submits satisfactory proof that the person is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized to practice by that state.

Social work assistant continuing education

(R.C. 4757.33)

The bill reduces, from 30 to 15, the number of clock hours of continuing professional education a person holding a certificate of registration as a social work assistant must complete during the two-year period the certificate of registration is in effect. Under continuing law, completing continuing education is a condition of renewing a certificate of registration unless the Board waives the requirement because a person cannot complete the hours for any of the following reasons:

- Military service;
- Illness;
- Residence abroad;
- Any other reason that is acceptable to the relevant professional standards committee created within the Board under continuing law.

Renewal schedule

(R.C. 4757.10 and 4757.32; Section 747.20)

The bill requires the Board to establish a schedule of deadlines for biennially renewing a license or certificate of registration issued under the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Law. Currently, a license or certificate of registration expires two years after it is issued. Under the bill, a license or certificate of registration is valid without further recommendation or examination until it is revoked or suspended or until it expires for failure to renew in accordance with the Board's schedule. Continuing law allows a license or certificate of registration to be renewed in accordance with the standard renewal procedure.

A license or certificate of registration in effect on the provision's effective date continues in effect until the first biennial renewal date established in the Board's rules. No license or certificate in effect on the provision's effective date is valid for more than three years after the effective date.

License display

(R.C. 4757.13)

The bill eliminates a requirement that a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist prominently display the person's license in an easy to see and read manner and in a conspicuous place in either the person's office or the place where the person conducts a major portion of the person's practice.