

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to mental health counseling interns;
 amending s. 491.0045, F.S.; revising mental health
 intern registration requirements; revising
 requirements for supervision of registered interns;
 deleting specified education and experience
 requirements; establishing validity period for and
 providing for expiration of intern registrations;
 amending s. 491.005, F.S.; requiring a licensed mental
 health professional to be on the premises when a
 registered intern provides services in clinical social
 work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health
 counseling; prohibiting such a registered intern from
 engaging in private practice; deleting a clinical
 experience requirement for such registered interns;
 deleting a provision requiring that certain registered
 interns meet educational requirements for licensure;
 providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 491.0045, Florida Statutes, is amended
 to read:

491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

(1) ~~Effective January 1, 1998,~~ An individual who has not
satisfied ~~intends to practice in Florida to satisfy the~~

27 | postgraduate or post-master's level experience requirements, as
28 | specified in s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c), must register
29 | as an intern in the profession for which he or she is seeking
30 | licensure before ~~prior to~~ commencing the post-master's
31 | experience requirement or an individual who intends to satisfy
32 | part of the required graduate-level practicum, internship, or
33 | field experience, outside the academic arena for any profession,
34 | and must register as an intern in the profession for which he or
35 | she is seeking licensure prior to commencing the practicum,
36 | internship, or field experience.

37 | (2) The department shall register as a clinical social
38 | worker intern, marriage and family therapist intern, or mental
39 | health counselor intern each applicant who the board certifies
40 | has:

41 | (a) Completed the application form and remitted a
42 | nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
43 | board rule;

44 | (b)1. Completed the education requirements as specified in
45 | s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) for the profession for which
46 | he or she is applying for licensure, if needed; and

47 | 2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined
48 | by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field
49 | work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her
50 | graduate program.

51 | (c) Identified a qualified supervisor.

52 | (3) An individual registered under this section must

53 remain under supervision while practicing under registered
 54 intern status ~~until he or she is in receipt of a license or a~~
 55 ~~letter from the department stating that he or she is licensed to~~
 56 ~~practice the profession for which he or she applied.~~

57 ~~(4) An individual who has applied for intern registration~~
 58 ~~on or before December 31, 2001, and has satisfied the education~~
 59 ~~requirements of s. 491.005 that are in effect through December~~
 60 ~~31, 2000, will have met the educational requirements for~~
 61 ~~licensure for the profession for which he or she has applied.~~

62 ~~(4) (5) Individuals who have commenced the experience~~
 63 ~~requirement as specified in s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c)~~
 64 ~~but failed to register as required by subsection (1) shall~~
 65 ~~register with the department before January 1, 2000. Individuals~~
 66 ~~who fail to comply with this section ~~subsection~~ shall not be~~
 67 ~~granted a license under this chapter, and any time spent by the~~
 68 ~~individual completing the experience requirement as specified in~~
 69 ~~s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) before ~~prior to~~ registering~~
 70 ~~as an intern does ~~shall~~ not count toward completion of the ~~such~~~~
 71 ~~requirement.~~

72 (5) An intern registration is valid for 5 years.

73 (6) An intern registration issued on or before March 31,
 74 2015, shall expire March 31, 2020, and may not be renewed or
 75 reissued. A registration issued after March 31, 2015, shall
 76 expire 60 months after the date it is issued.

77 (7) A person who has held a provisional license issued by
 78 the board may not apply for an intern registration in the same

79 | profession.

80 | Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1),
 81 | paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and (c)
 82 | of subsection (4), and subsections (5) and (6) of section
 83 | 491.005, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

84 | 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

85 | (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of
 86 | documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 87 | board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost to the department
 88 | for purchase of the examination from the American Association of
 89 | State Social Worker's Boards or a similar national organization,
 90 | the department shall issue a license as a clinical social worker
 91 | to an applicant who the board certifies:

92 | (a) Has submitted an ~~made~~ application ~~therefor~~ and paid
 93 | the appropriate fee.

94 | (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical
 95 | social work experience, which took place subsequent to
 96 | completion of a graduate degree in social work at an institution
 97 | meeting the accreditation requirements of this section, under
 98 | the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the
 99 | equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the
 100 | board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to
 101 | satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant
 102 | to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior to~~ commencing practice. If the
 103 | applicant's graduate program was not a program which emphasized
 104 | direct clinical patient or client health care services as

105 described in subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience
 106 requirement must take place after the applicant has completed a
 107 minimum of 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the
 108 coursework required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward
 109 the clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed
 110 mental health professional must be on the premises when clinical
 111 services are provided by a registered intern in a private
 112 practice setting. A registered intern may not engage in his or
 113 her own independent private practice ~~The experience requirement~~
 114 ~~may be met by work performed on or off the premises of the~~
 115 ~~supervising clinical social worker or the equivalent, provided~~
 116 ~~the off-premises work is not the independent private practice~~
 117 ~~rendering of clinical social work that does not have a licensed~~
 118 ~~mental health professional, as determined by the board, on the~~
 119 ~~premises at the same time the intern is providing services.~~

120 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of
 121 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 122 board rule, plus the actual cost to the department for the
 123 purchase of the examination from the Association of Marital and
 124 Family Therapy Regulatory Board, or similar national
 125 organization, the department shall issue a license as a marriage
 126 and family therapist to an applicant who the board certifies:

127 (a) Has submitted an ~~made~~ application ~~therefor~~ and paid
 128 the appropriate fee.

129 (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical
 130 experience during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients

131 were receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must
132 be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a
133 licensed marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of
134 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as
135 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
136 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
137 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior to~~ commencing
138 practice. If a graduate has a master's degree with a major
139 emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a closely related
140 field that did not include all the coursework required under
141 sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c., credit for the post-master's level
142 clinical experience shall not commence until the applicant has
143 completed a minimum of 10 of the courses required under sub-
144 subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c., as determined by the board, and at
145 least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the course credits
146 must have been completed in the area of marriage and family
147 systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 3 years of required
148 experience, the applicant shall provide direct individual,
149 group, or family therapy and counseling, to include the
150 following categories of cases: unmarried dyads, married couples,
151 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups including
152 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
153 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
154 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
155 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting. A
156 registered intern may not engage in his or her own independent

157 private practice ~~The clinical experience requirement may be met~~
 158 ~~by work performed on or off the premises of the supervising~~
 159 ~~marriage and family therapist or the equivalent, provided the~~
 160 ~~off-premises work is not the independent private practice~~
 161 ~~rendering of marriage and family therapy services that does not~~
 162 ~~have a licensed mental health professional, as determined by the~~
 163 ~~board, on the premises at the same time the intern is providing~~
 164 ~~services.~~

165 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of
 166 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 167 board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost to the department
 168 for purchase of the examination from the Professional
 169 Examination Service for the National Academy of Certified
 170 Clinical Mental Health Counselors or a similar national
 171 organization, the department shall issue a license as a mental
 172 health counselor to an applicant who the board certifies:

173 (a) Has submitted an ~~made~~ application ~~therefor~~ and paid
 174 the appropriate fee.

175 (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical
 176 experience in mental health counseling, which must be at the
 177 post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed mental
 178 health counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor
 179 as determined by the board. An individual who intends to
 180 practice in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience
 181 requirements must register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior~~
 182 ~~to~~ commencing practice. If a graduate has a master's degree with

183 a major related to the practice of mental health counseling that
 184 did not include all the coursework required under sub-
 185 subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b., credit for the post-master's level
 186 clinical experience shall not commence until the applicant has
 187 completed a minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-
 188 subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b., as determined by the board, one of
 189 which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal
 190 psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
 191 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
 192 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
 193 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting. A
 194 registered intern may not engage in his or her own independent
 195 private practice ~~The clinical experience requirement may be met~~
 196 ~~by work performed on or off the premises of the supervising~~
 197 ~~mental health counselor or the equivalent, provided the off-~~
 198 ~~premises work is not the independent private practice rendering~~
 199 ~~of services that does not have a licensed mental health~~
 200 ~~professional, as determined by the board, on the premises at the~~
 201 ~~same time the intern is providing services.~~

202 ~~(5) INTERNSHIP. An individual who is registered as an~~
 203 ~~intern and has satisfied all of the educational requirements for~~
 204 ~~the profession for which the applicant seeks licensure shall be~~
 205 ~~certified as having met the educational requirements for~~
 206 ~~licensure under this section.~~

207 (5)-(6) RULES.—The board may adopt rules necessary to
 208 implement any education or experience requirement of this

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209 | section for licensure as a clinical social worker, marriage and
210 | family therapist, or mental health counselor.

211 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.