

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to mental health counseling interns;
 3 amending s. 491.0045, F.S.; revising mental health
 4 intern registration requirements; revising
 5 requirements for supervision of registered interns;
 6 deleting specified education and experience
 7 requirements; establishing a validity period and
 8 providing for expiration of intern registrations;
 9 amending s. 491.005, F.S.; requiring a licensed mental
 10 health professional to be on the premises when a
 11 registered intern provides services in clinical social
 12 work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health
 13 counseling; deleting a clinical experience requirement
 14 for such registered interns; deleting a provision
 15 requiring that certain registered interns meet
 16 educational requirements for licensure; providing an
 17 effective date.

18
 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
 21 Section 1. Section 491.0045, Florida Statutes, is amended
 22 to read:

23 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

24 (1) ~~Effective January 1, 1998,~~ An individual who has not
 25 satisfied ~~intends to practice in Florida to satisfy~~ the
 26 postgraduate or post-master's level experience requirements, as

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

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

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

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

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

50 | (c) Identified a qualified supervisor.

51 | (3) An individual registered under this section must
52 | remain under supervision while practicing under registered

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

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

61 ~~(4)(5) Individuals who have commenced the experience~~
62 ~~requirement as specified in s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c)~~
63 ~~but failed to register as required by subsection (1) shall~~
64 ~~register with the department before January 1, 2000. Individuals~~
65 ~~who fail to comply with this section may subsection shall not be~~
66 ~~granted a license under this chapter, and any time spent by the~~
67 ~~individual completing the experience requirement as specified in~~
68 ~~s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) before prior to registering~~
69 ~~as an intern does shall not count toward completion of the such~~
70 ~~requirement.~~

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

72 (6) An intern registration issued on or before April 1,
73 2017, expires March 31, 2022, and may not be renewed or
74 reissued. A registration issued after April 1, 2017, expires 60
75 months after the date of issuance. No subsequent intern
76 registration may be issued unless the candidate has passed the
77 theory and practice examination described in s. 491.005 (1)(d),
78 (3)(d), and (4)(d).

79 (7) A person who has held a provisional license issued by
80 the board may not apply for an intern registration in the same
81 profession.

82 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1),
83 paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and (c)
84 of subsection (4), and subsections (5) and (6) of section
85 491.005, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

86 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

130 (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical

131 | experience during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients
132 | were receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must
133 | be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a
134 | licensed marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of
135 | experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as
136 | determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
137 | in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
138 | register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior to~~ commencing
139 | practice. If a graduate has a master's degree with a major
140 | emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a closely related
141 | field that did not include all the coursework required under
142 | sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c., credit for the post-master's level
143 | clinical experience shall not commence until the applicant has
144 | completed a minimum of 10 of the courses required under sub-
145 | subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c., as determined by the board, and at
146 | least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the course credits
147 | must have been completed in the area of marriage and family
148 | systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 3 years of required
149 | experience, the applicant shall provide direct individual,
150 | group, or family therapy and counseling, to include the
151 | following categories of cases: unmarried dyads, married couples,
152 | separating and divorcing couples, and family groups including
153 | children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
154 | clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
155 | professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
156 | provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

205 (5)(6) RULES.—The board may adopt rules necessary to
206 implement any education or experience requirement of this
207 section for licensure as a clinical social worker, marriage and
208 family therapist, or mental health counselor.

CS/HB 373

2016

209

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.