

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1591

## 92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MORRIS.

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time March 1, 2004, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

4804L.011

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 337.700, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to marital and family therapy.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 337.700, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 337.700, to read as follows:

337.700. As used in sections 337.700 to 337.739, the following terms mean:

- 2 (1) "Committee", the state committee for family and marital therapists;
- 3 (2) "Department", the Missouri department of economic development;
- 4 (3) "Director", the director of the division of professional registration in the department
- 5 of economic development;
- 6 (4) "Division", the division of professional registration;
- 7 (5) "Fund", the marital and family therapists' fund created in section 337.712;
- 8 (6) "Licensed marital and family therapist", a person to whom a license has been issued
- 9 pursuant to the provisions of sections 337.700 to 337.739, whose license is in force and not
- 10 suspended or revoked;
- 11 (7) "Marital and family therapy", the use of scientific and applied marriage and family
- 12 theories, methods and procedures for the purpose of **diagnosing**, describing, evaluating and
- 13 modifying marital, family and individual behavior within the context of marital and family
- 14 systems, including the context of marital formation and dissolution. Marriage and family therapy
- 15 is based on systems theories, marriage and family development, normal and dysfunctional
- 16 behavior, human sexuality and psychotherapeutic, marital and family therapy theories and
- 17 techniques and includes the use of marriage and family therapy theories and techniques in the
- 18 **diagnosis**, evaluation, assessment and treatment of intrapersonal or interpersonal dysfunctions

19 within the context of marriage and family systems. Marriage and family therapy may also  
20 include clinical research into more effective methods for the treatment and prevention of the  
21 above-named conditions;

22 (8) "Practice of marital and family therapy", the rendering of professional marital and  
23 family therapy services to individuals, family groups and marital pairs, singly or in groups,  
24 whether such services are offered directly to the general public or through organizations, either  
25 public or private, for a fee, monetary or otherwise.