

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1702L.01T

2005

AN ACT

To repeal section 337.510, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to licensing requirements for professional counselors.

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

Section A. Section 337.510, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 337.510, to read as follows:

337.510. 1. Each applicant for licensure as a professional counselor shall furnish evidence to the committee that:

(1) The applicant has met any one of the three following education-experience requirements:

(a) The applicant has received a doctoral degree with a major in counseling, or its equivalent, from an acceptable educational institution, as defined by division rules, and has completed at least one year of acceptable supervised counseling experience subsequent to receipt of the doctoral degree; or

(b) The applicant has received a specialist's degree with a major in counseling, or its equivalent, from an acceptable educational institution, as defined by division rules, and has completed at least one year of acceptable supervised counseling experience subsequent to receipt of the specialist's degree; or

(c) The applicant has received at least a master's degree with a major in counseling, or its equivalent, from an acceptable educational institution as defined by division rules, and has completed two years of acceptable supervised counseling experience subsequent to receipt of the master's degree. An applicant may substitute thirty semester hours of post-master's graduate study, or their equivalent, for one of the two required years of acceptable supervised counseling

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 experience, if such hours are clearly related to the field of professional counseling and are earned
19 from an acceptable educational institution[.];

20 (2) **After August 28, 2007, each applicant shall have completed a minimum of three**
21 **hours of graduate level coursework in diagnostic systems in the curriculum leading to his**
22 **or her degree;**

23 (3) Upon examination, the applicant is possessed of requisite knowledge of the
24 profession, including techniques and applications, research and its interpretation, and
25 professional affairs and ethics.

26 2. A licensed professional counselor who has had no violations and no suspensions and
27 no revocation of a license to practice professional counseling in any jurisdiction may receive a
28 license in Missouri provided said licensed professional counselor passes a written examination
29 on Missouri laws and regulations governing the practice of professional counseling as defined
30 in section 337.500, and meets one of the following criteria:

31 (1) Is a member in good standing and holds a certification from the National Board for
32 Certified Counselors;

33 (2) Is currently licensed or certified as a licensed professional counselor in another state,
34 territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia; and

35 (a) Meets one of the educational standards set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of
36 subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section;

37 (b) Has been licensed for the preceding five years; and

38 (c) Has had no disciplinary action taken against the license for the preceding five years;

39 or

40 (3) Is currently licensed or certified as a professional counselor in another state, territory
41 of the United States, or the District of Columbia that extends like privileges for reciprocal
42 licensing or certification to persons licensed by this state with similar qualifications.

43 3. Any person who previously held a valid unrevoked, unsuspended license as a
44 professional counselor in this state and who held a valid license in another state at the time of
45 application to the committee shall be granted a license to engage in professional counseling in
46 this state upon application to the committee accompanied by the appropriate fee as established
47 by the committee pursuant to section 337.507.

48 4. The committee shall issue a license to each person who files an application and fee
49 as required by the provisions of sections 337.500 to 337.540 and who furnishes evidence
50 satisfactory to the committee that the applicant has complied with the provisions of subdivisions
51 (1) and (2) of subsection 1 of this section or with the provisions of subsection 2 or 3 of this
52 section. The division shall issue a provisional professional counselor license to any applicant
53 who meets all requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection 1 of this section, but who

54 has not completed the required one or two years of acceptable supervised counseling experience
55 required by paragraphs (a) to (c) of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section, and such
56 applicant may reapply for licensure as a professional counselor upon completion of such
57 acceptable supervised counseling experience.

58 **5. All persons licensed to practice professional counseling in this state shall pay on**
59 **or before the license renewal date a renewal license fee and shall furnish to the committee**
60 **satisfactory evidence of the completion of the requisite number of hours of continuing**
61 **education, which shall be no more than forty hours biennially. The continuing education**
62 **requirements may be waived by the committee upon presentation to the committee of**
63 **satisfactory evidence of the illness of the licensee or for other good cause.**