

HB 599 -- Professional Counselors

Sponsor: Cooper (155)

This bill revises the definition of the "practice of professional counseling" to include the application of mental health, behavior, or human development principles in order to facilitate human development; prevent, diagnose, and treat mental and behavior disorders; conduct assessments for the purpose of establishing treatment; and plan, evaluate, and implement treatment plans using counseling treatment interventions.

The definition of "professional counseling" is revised to include individual, group, marriage, and family counseling and psychotherapy; assessment; crisis intervention; diagnosis and treatment of persons with mental disorders; guidance and consultation to facilitate normal growth and development; utilization of functional assessment; consulting; research; and referral. Restrictions are placed on these practices to apply to those persons appropriately trained as a professional counselor.

After August 28, 2007, all applicants for licensure as a professional counselor will be required to provide the Committee for Professional Counselors with evidence of the completion of a minimum of three hours of graduate-level course work in diagnostic systems in the curriculum leading to their degree. The committee is authorized to establish continuing education requirements for professional counselors to maintain and renew their licenses.