

ASSEMBLY, No. 2106

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Assemblymen PASCRELL and STEELE

1 AN ACT concerning the licensure of professional counselors and  
2 associate counselors and amending P.L.1993, c.340.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. Section 7 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-40) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 7. Each person applying for licensure as a licensed professional  
10 counselor shall make application therefor to the board on the form and  
11 in the manner the committee prescribes and the board shall  
12 immediately refer each application to the committee for appropriate  
13 action. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the  
14 committee that he:

15 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

16 b. Has [completed a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in a  
17 planned educational program, which includes a master's degree or  
18 doctorate in counseling from a regionally accredited institution of  
19 higher education, of which 45 graduate semester hours are distributed  
20 in at least eight of the following areas:

21 (1) Counseling theory and practice;

22 (2) The helping relationship;

23 (3) Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior;

24 (4) Lifestyle and career development;

25 (5) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting;

26 (6) Appraisal of individuals;

27 (7) Social and cultural foundations;

28 (8) Research and evaluation;

29 (9) **The counseling profession]** received a master's degree or  
30 doctorate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education,  
31 in subject matter which is primarily counseling in content and which  
32 meets the academic and training content standards established by the  
33 committee and the board, or the substantial equivalent in both subject  
34 matter and extent of training. The committee and the board shall use

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

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as  
2 determined by the committee and the board as a guide in establishing  
3 the training standards for counselor licensure;

4 c. Has had at least three years of supervised full-time counseling  
5 experience in a professional counseling setting acceptable to the  
6 committee, one year of which may be obtained prior to the granting of  
7 the master's degree. The committee shall establish criteria for  
8 determining the qualifications and status which may constitute  
9 supervised counseling experience. An applicant may eliminate one  
10 year of the required supervised counseling experience by substituting  
11 30 graduate semester hours beyond the master's degree if those  
12 graduate semester hours are clearly related to counseling and are  
13 acceptable to the committee. In no case, however, may the applicant  
14 have less than one year of supervised professional counseling  
15 experience after the granting of the master's degree; and

16 d. Has passed the National Certified Counselor Examination of the  
17 National Board for Certified Counselors or the Certified Rehabilitation  
18 Counselor Examination by the Commission on Rehabilitation  
19 Counselor Certification.

20 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.7)

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22 2. Section 8 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-41) is amended to read  
23 as follows:

24 8. Each person applying for licensure as a licensed associate  
25 counselor shall make application therefor to the board on the form and  
26 in the manner the committee prescribes and the board shall  
27 immediately refer each application to the committee for appropriate  
28 action. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the  
29 committee that he:

30 a. Is at least 18 years of age;

31 b. Has [completed a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in a  
32 planned educational program, which includes a master's degree or  
33 doctorate in counseling from a regionally accredited institution of  
34 higher education, of which 45 graduate semester hours are distributed  
35 in at least eight of the following areas:

36 (1) Counseling theory and practice;

37 (2) The helping relationship;

38 (3) Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior;

39 (4) Lifestyle and career development;

40 (5) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting;

41 (6) Appraisal of individuals;

42 (7) Social and cultural foundations;

43 (8) Research and evaluation;

44 (9) The counseling profession] received a master's degree or  
45 doctorate from a regionally accredited institution of higher education,  
46 in subject matter which is primarily counseling in content and which

1 meets the academic and training content standards established by the  
2 committee and the board, or the substantial equivalent in both subject  
3 matter and extent of training. The committee and the board shall use  
4 the standards of appropriate professional counseling associations as  
5 determined by the committee and the board as a guide in establishing  
6 the training standards for counselor licensure; and

7 c. Has passed an examination approved by the committee.

8 (cf: P.L.1993, c.340, s.8)

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10 3. (New section) During the first 360 days after the effective date  
11 of this 1996 amendatory and supplementary act, the board shall issue  
12 to any individual upon application a professional counselor license,  
13 provided that the applicant meets the requirements of subsections a.  
14 and b. of section 7 of P.L.1993, c.340 (C.45:8B-40) and the board  
15 shall have the power to consider experience of the applicant prior to  
16 application for licensure as a waiver of all or part of the supervised  
17 experience requirements of subsection c. of that section 7. If the prior  
18 experience of the applicant does not meet all the requirements of that  
19 subsection c. then the applicant shall be issued an associate counselor  
20 license with acceptable experience credited toward the experience  
21 requirements of that subsection c. The board shall waive written  
22 examination of these applicants, but may require oral or situational  
23 examinations, or both.

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25 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### 26 27 28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill provides that the State Board of Marriage Counselor  
31 Examiners and the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee shall  
32 be responsible for establishing the content of academic and training  
33 standards for professional counselors and associate counselors. The  
34 board and committee must use the standards of appropriate  
35 professional counseling associations as a guide in establishing  
36 standards for counselor licensing. To become a licensed professional  
37 or associate counselor, an applicant would still be required to have a  
38 master's degree or doctorate from a regionally accredited institution  
39 of higher education in subject matter which is primarily counseling in  
40 content.

41 Applicants seeking to be a licensed professional counselor must  
42 currently pass the National Certified Counselor Examination. This bill  
43 allows an applicant to take either that test or the Certified  
44 Rehabilitation Counselor Examination to qualify.

45 The bill also provides for the grandfathering of applicants who meet  
46 the education and experience requirements to be licensed professional

1 counselors without a written examination, except that the board may  
2 require an oral or situational examination, or both. The board may  
3 consider an applicant's experience as a waiver of all or part of the  
4 supervised experience requirements for licensure as a professional  
5 counselor.

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10 Modifies licensure requirements for professional counselors and  
11 associate counselors.