



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

**MARRIAGE COUNSELORS;
EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

House Bill 6143

Sponsor: Rep. Gerald Law

Committee: Regulatory Affairs

Complete to 11-18-96

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 6143 AS INTRODUCED 9-25-96

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to revise the "supervised experience" requirements for the licensure of marriage and family therapists. Currently, applicants for licensure must have at least a master's degree and must meet certain requirements for gaining experience in a supervised setting.

****** At present, an applicant for licensure must have at least 300 hours of verified direct client contact, completed during his or her educational program, and supervised by a licensed marriage and family therapist. Under the bill, the supervision for this 300-hour experience requirement could be provided by a person with a master's degree (or higher) from an accredited college or university approved by the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy who could be, but would not have to be, a marriage and family therapist. Supervision could also be provided by a certified or registered social worker, a licensed professional counselor, a physician practicing in a mental health setting, a fully licensed (Ph.D. level) psychologist, or an approved supervisor or supervisor-in-training through a program conducted by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and approved by the board.

******In addition to the 300-hour requirement, an applicant must have completed at least 2,000 post-graduate hours, over not more than five years, of direct client contact, supervised in a ratio of at least one hour of supervision for each 10 hours of experience. The bill would decrease the number of hours required to 1,000, eliminate the requirement that the experience be gained over a period of not more than five years, and require that it be supervised in a ratio of at least one hour of supervision for each five hours of experience. (This experience component would continue to require the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist.)

****** Under the bill, applicants with doctoral degrees from accredited doctoral training programs in marriage and family therapy that are approved by the board would be exempt from both the 300-hour requirement and the requirement for 1,000 hours of post-graduate supervised experience.

MCL 333.16909

Analyst: D. Martens

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.