

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to clinical social workers, marriage  
3           and family therapists, and mental health counselors;  
4           amending s. 491.003, F.S.; providing definitions;  
5           revising requirements for licensure by examination;  
6           amending s. 491.004, F.S.; deleting an obsolete  
7           provision; amending s. 491.0045, F.S.; revising intern  
8           registration requirements; providing an exception;  
9           amending s. 491.005, F.S.; revising the licensure  
10          requirements for clinical social workers, marriage and  
11          family therapists, and mental health counselors;  
12          amending s. 491.0057, F.S.; requiring that an  
13          applicant for dual licensure as a marriage and family  
14          therapist pass an examination designated by the board;  
15          amending s. 491.006, F.S.; revising requirements for  
16          licensure or certification by endorsement for certain  
17          professions; repealing s. 491.0065, F.S., relating to  
18          requirements for instruction on HIV and AIDS; amending  
19          s. 491.007, F.S.; deleting a provision providing  
20          certified master social workers an exemption from  
21          continuing education requirements; deleting a  
22          provision requiring the Board of Clinical Social Work,  
23          Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health  
24          Counseling to establish a procedure for the biennial  
25          renewal of intern registrations; amending s. 491.009,

26 F.S.; revising who may enter an order denying  
27 licensure or imposing penalties against an applicant  
28 for licensure under certain circumstances; amending s.  
29 491.012, F.S.; providing that using the title  
30 "certified master social worker" without a valid,  
31 active license is unlawful; deleting an obsolete  
32 provision; amending s. 491.0145, F.S.; requiring the  
33 Department of Health to license an applicant for  
34 designation as a certified master social worker under  
35 certain circumstances; providing that applicants for  
36 designation as a certified master social worker submit  
37 their application to the board; deleting a provision  
38 relating to the nonrefundable fee for examination set  
39 by department rule; authorizing the board to adopt  
40 rules; amending s. 491.0149, F.S.; requiring the use  
41 of applicable professional titles by licensees,  
42 provisional licensees, and registrants on social media  
43 and other specified materials; repealing s. 491.015,  
44 F.S., relating to duties of the department as to  
45 certified master social workers; amending s. 414.065,  
46 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
47 act; providing an effective date.

48  
49 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
50

51 Section 1. Present subsections (2) through (7) of section  
52 491.003, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3)  
53 through (8), respectively, present subsections (8) through (17)  
54 are renumbered as subsections (10) through (19), respectively,  
55 and new subsections (2) and (9) are added to that section, to  
56 read:

57 491.003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

58 (2) "Certified master social worker" means a person  
59 licensed under this chapter to practice generalist social work.

60 (9) "Practice of generalist social work" means the  
61 application of social work theory, knowledge, methods and  
62 ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or enhance  
63 social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of  
64 individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and  
65 communities. The term includes the application of specialized  
66 knowledge and advanced practice skills in nondiagnostic  
67 assessment, treatment planning, implementation and evaluation,  
68 case management, information and referral, supervision,  
69 consultation, education, research, advocacy, community  
70 organization, and the development, implementation, and  
71 administration of policies, programs, and activities.

72 Section 2. Subsections (4) through (7) of section 491.004,  
73 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (6),  
74 respectively, and present subsection (3) is amended to read:

75 491.004 Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family

76 Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling.—

77 ~~(3) No later than January 1, 1988, the Governor shall~~  
 78 ~~appoint nine members of the board as follows:~~

79 ~~(a) Three members for terms of 2 years each.~~

80 ~~(b) Three members for terms of 3 years each.~~

81 ~~(c) Three members for terms of 4 years each.~~

82 Section 3. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 491.0045,  
 83 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

84 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

85 (2) The department shall register as a clinical social  
 86 worker intern, marriage and family therapist intern, or mental  
 87 health counselor intern each applicant who the board certifies  
 88 has:

89 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a  
 90 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 91 board rule;

92 (b)1. Completed the education requirements as specified in  
 93 s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) for the profession for which  
 94 he or she is applying for licensure, if needed; and

95 2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined  
 96 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field  
 97 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her  
 98 graduate program.

99 (c) Identified a qualified supervisor.

100 (d) Completed an 8-hour Florida laws and rules course

101 approved by the board.

102 (6) A registration issued on or before March 31, 2017,  
 103 expires March 31, 2022, and may not be renewed or reissued. Any  
 104 registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires 60 months  
 105 after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-time  
 106 exception from the requirements of this section in emergency or  
 107 hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if ~~A subsequent intern~~  
 108 ~~registration may not be issued unless~~ the candidate has passed  
 109 the theory and practice examination described in s.  
 110 491.005(1) (d), (3) (d), and (4) (d).

111 Section 4. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection  
 112 (2), and subsections (3) and (4) of section 491.005, Florida  
 113 Statutes, are amended to read:

114 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

115 (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of  
 116 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 117 board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost ~~to the department~~  
 118 for purchase of the examination from the ~~American~~ Association of  
 119 ~~State Social Work Worker's~~ Boards or its successor ~~a similar~~  
 120 ~~national organization,~~ the department shall issue a license as a  
 121 clinical social worker to an applicant who the board certifies:

122 (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
 123 fee.

124 (b)1. Has received a doctoral degree in social work from a  
 125 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant

126 graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by  
127 the United States Department of Education or has received a  
128 master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social  
129 work which at the time the applicant graduated:

130 a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

131 b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools  
132 of Social Work; or

133 c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent  
134 to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by  
135 the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
136 Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program  
137 at a university or college outside of the United States or  
138 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency  
139 determination from the council in order to qualify.

140 2. The applicant's graduate program must have emphasized  
141 direct clinical patient or client health care services,  
142 including, but not limited to, coursework in clinical social  
143 work, psychiatric social work, medical social work, social  
144 casework, psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's  
145 graduate program must have included all of the following  
146 coursework:

147 a. A supervised field placement which was part of the  
148 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during  
149 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to  
150 clients.

151           b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in  
152 courses approved by rule of the board ~~theory of human behavior~~  
153 ~~and practice methods as courses in clinically oriented services,~~  
154 ~~including a minimum of one course in psychopathology, and no~~  
155 ~~more than one course in research, taken in a school of social~~  
156 ~~work accredited or approved pursuant to subparagraph 1.~~

157           3. ~~If the course title which appears on the applicant's~~  
158 ~~transcript does not clearly identify the content of the~~  
159 ~~coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide~~  
160 ~~additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a~~  
161 ~~syllabus or catalog description published for the course.~~

162           (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical social work  
163 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a  
164 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the  
165 accreditation requirements of this section, under the  
166 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the  
167 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
168 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
169 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant  
170 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's  
171 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct  
172 clinical patient or client health care services as described in  
173 subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience requirement must  
174 take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of 15  
175 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required. A

176 | doctoral internship may be applied toward the clinical social  
177 | work experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
178 | professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
179 | provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

180 |       (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
181 | designated ~~provided~~ by the board ~~department for this purpose~~.

182 |       (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of  
183 | the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
184 | practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
185 | and mental health counseling.

186 |       (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

187 |       (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in  
188 | social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client  
189 | services may complete the clinical curriculum content  
190 | requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the  
191 | Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association for  
192 | Social Work Education ~~of Schools of Social Work~~, or to a  
193 | clinical social work graduate program with comparable standards,  
194 | in order to complete the education requirements for examination.  
195 | However, a maximum of 6 semester or 9 quarter hours of the  
196 | clinical curriculum content requirement may be completed by  
197 | credit awarded for independent study coursework as defined by  
198 | board rule.

199 |       (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of  
200 | documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by



201 board rule, plus the actual cost ~~to the department~~ for the  
202 purchase of the examination from the Association of Marital and  
203 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards ~~Board~~, or its successor ~~similar~~  
204 ~~national~~ organization, the department shall issue a license as a  
205 marriage and family therapist to an applicant who the board  
206 certifies:

207 (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
208 fee.

209 (b)~~1.~~ Has a minimum of a master's degree with major  
210 emphasis in marriage and family therapy from a program  
211 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
212 Family Therapy Education or from a Florida university program  
213 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
214 Related Educational Programs, or a closely related field, and  
215 graduate courses approved by the Board of Clinical Social Work,  
216 Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling ~~has~~  
217 ~~completed all of the following requirements:~~

218 ~~a. Thirty six semester hours or 48 quarter hours of~~  
219 ~~graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester~~  
220 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level course credits in~~  
221 ~~each of the following nine areas: dynamics of marriage and~~  
222 ~~family systems; marriage therapy and counseling theory and~~  
223 ~~techniques; family therapy and counseling theory and techniques;~~  
224 ~~individual human development theories throughout the life cycle;~~  
225 ~~personality theory or general counseling theory and techniques;~~

226 ~~psychopathology; human sexuality theory and counseling~~  
227 ~~techniques; psychosocial theory; and substance abuse theory and~~  
228 ~~counseling techniques. Courses in research, evaluation,~~  
229 ~~appraisal, assessment, or testing theories and procedures;~~  
230 ~~thesis or dissertation work; or practicums, internships, or~~  
231 ~~fieldwork may not be applied toward this requirement.~~

232 ~~b. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester~~  
233 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours in legal, ethical, and professional~~  
234 ~~standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy~~  
235 ~~or a course determined by the board to be equivalent.~~

236 ~~e. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester~~  
237 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours in diagnosis, appraisal, assessment,~~  
238 ~~and testing for individual or interpersonal disorder or~~  
239 ~~dysfunction; and a minimum of one 3-semester-hour or 4-quarter-~~  
240 ~~hour graduate-level course in behavioral research which focuses~~  
241 ~~on the interpretation and application of research data as it~~  
242 ~~applies to clinical practice. Credit for thesis or dissertation~~  
243 ~~work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied~~  
244 ~~toward this requirement.~~

245 ~~d. A minimum of one supervised clinical practicum,~~  
246 ~~internship, or field experience in a marriage and family~~  
247 ~~counseling setting, during which the student provided 180 direct~~  
248 ~~client contact hours of marriage and family therapy services~~  
249 ~~under the supervision of an individual who met the requirements~~  
250 ~~for supervision under paragraph (c). This requirement may be met~~

251 ~~by a supervised practice experience which took place outside the~~  
252 ~~academic arena, but which is certified as equivalent to a~~  
253 ~~graduate-level practicum or internship program which required a~~  
254 ~~minimum of 180 direct client contact hours of marriage and~~  
255 ~~family therapy services currently offered within an academic~~  
256 ~~program of a college or university accredited by an accrediting~~  
257 ~~agency approved by the United States Department of Education, or~~  
258 ~~an institution which is publicly recognized as a member in good~~  
259 ~~standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges of~~  
260 ~~Canada or a training institution accredited by the Commission on~~  
261 ~~Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education~~  
262 ~~recognized by the United States Department of Education.~~  
263 ~~Certification shall be required from an official of such~~  
264 ~~college, university, or training institution.~~

265 ~~2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's~~  
266 ~~transcript does not clearly identify the content of the~~  
267 ~~coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide~~  
268 ~~additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a~~  
269 ~~syllabus or catalog description published for the course.~~

270  
271 The required master's degree must have been received in an  
272 institution of higher education which at the time the applicant  
273 graduated was: fully accredited by a regional accrediting body  
274 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
275 ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;~~

276 | publicly recognized as a member in good standing with ~~the~~  
277 | ~~Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada~~; or an  
278 | institution of higher education located outside the United  
279 | States and Canada, which at the time the applicant was enrolled  
280 | and at the time the applicant graduated maintained a standard of  
281 | training substantially equivalent to the standards of training  
282 | of those institutions in the United States which are accredited  
283 | by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on  
284 | Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. Such foreign  
285 | education and training must have been received in an institution  
286 | or program of higher education officially recognized by the  
287 | government of the country in which it is located as an  
288 | institution or program to train students to practice as  
289 | professional marriage and family therapists or psychotherapists.  
290 | The burden of establishing that the requirements of this  
291 | provision have been met shall be upon the applicant, and the  
292 | board shall require documentation, such as, but not limited to,  
293 | an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service, as  
294 | evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and  
295 | education were equivalent to an accredited program in this  
296 | country. An applicant with a master's degree from a program  
297 | which did not emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete  
298 | the coursework requirement in a training institution fully  
299 | accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
300 | Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States

301 Department of Education.

302 (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical experience during  
303 which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were receiving  
304 marriage and family therapy services, which must be at the post-  
305 master's level under the supervision of a licensed marriage and  
306 family therapist with at least 5 years of experience, or the  
307 equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
308 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
309 satisfy the clinical experience requirements must register  
310 pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If a  
311 graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in marriage  
312 and family therapy or a closely related field that did not  
313 include all the coursework required under paragraph (b) ~~sub-~~  
314 ~~subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c.~~, credit for the post-master's level  
315 clinical experience shall not commence until the applicant has  
316 completed a minimum of 10 of the courses required under  
317 paragraph (b) ~~sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c.~~, as determined by the  
318 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the  
319 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage  
320 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 ~~3~~  
321 years of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct  
322 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling, to include  
323 the following categories of cases: unmarried dyads, married  
324 couples, separating and divorcing couples, and family groups  
325 including children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward

326 the clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
327 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
328 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

329 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
330 designated ~~provided~~ by the board ~~department~~ for this purpose.

331 (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of  
332 the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
333 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
334 and mental health counseling.

335 (f) For the purposes of dual licensure, the department  
336 shall license as a marriage and family therapist any person who  
337 meets the requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure  
338 shall not exceed those stated in this subsection.

339 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of  
340 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
341 board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost ~~to the department~~  
342 for purchase of the examination from the National Board for  
343 Certified Counselors or its successor ~~Professional Examination~~  
344 ~~Service for the National Academy of Certified Clinical Mental~~  
345 ~~Health Counselors or a similar national organization~~, the  
346 department shall issue a license as a mental health counselor to  
347 an applicant who the board certifies:

348 (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
349 fee.

350 (b)1. Has a minimum of an earned master's degree from a

351 mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for  
352 the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs  
353 that consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours  
354 of clinical and didactic instruction, ~~including a course in~~  
355 ~~human sexuality and a course in substance abuse~~. If the master's  
356 degree is earned from a program related to the practice of  
357 mental health counseling that is not accredited by the Council  
358 for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
359 Programs, then the coursework and practicum, internship, or  
360 fieldwork must consist of at least 60 semester hours or 80  
361 quarter hours and meet the following requirements:

362 a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of  
363 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester  
364 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of  
365 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and  
366 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment  
367 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and  
368 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and  
369 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social  
370 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,  
371 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental  
372 health counseling in community settings; and substance abuse.  
373 Courses in research, thesis or dissertation work, practicums,  
374 internships, or fieldwork may not be applied toward this  
375 requirement.

376           b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of  
377 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,  
378 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current  
379 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American  
380 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
381 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the  
382 common core curricular experience in legal, ethical, and  
383 ~~professional standards issues in the practice of mental health~~  
384 ~~counseling, which includes goals, objectives, and practices of~~  
385 ~~professional counseling organizations, codes of ethics, legal~~  
386 ~~considerations, standards of preparation, certifications and~~  
387 ~~licensing, and the role identity and professional obligations of~~  
388 ~~mental health counselors. Courses in research, thesis or~~  
389 ~~dissertation work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not~~  
390 ~~be applied toward this requirement.~~

391           c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least  
392 700 ~~1,000~~ hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical  
393 practicum, internship, or field experience that includes at  
394 least 280 hours of direct client services, as required in the  
395 accrediting standards of the Council for Accreditation of  
396 Counseling and Related Educational Programs for mental health  
397 counseling programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy  
398 the post-master's clinical experience requirement.

399           2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
400 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the



401 coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
402 additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
403 syllabus or catalog description published for the course.  
404

405 Education and training in mental health counseling must have  
406 been received in an institution of higher education which at the  
407 time the applicant graduated was: fully accredited by a regional  
408 accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
409 or its successor ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary~~  
410 ~~Accreditation~~; publicly recognized as a member in good standing  
411 with ~~the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada~~; or  
412 an institution of higher education located outside the United  
413 States and Canada, which at the time the applicant was enrolled  
414 and at the time the applicant graduated maintained a standard of  
415 training substantially equivalent to the standards of training  
416 of those institutions in the United States which are accredited  
417 by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
418 Higher Education or its successor ~~Commission on Recognition of~~  
419 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~. Such foreign education and training  
420 must have been received in an institution or program of higher  
421 education officially recognized by the government of the country  
422 in which it is located as an institution or program to train  
423 students to practice as mental health counselors. The burden of  
424 establishing that the requirements of this provision have been  
425 met shall be upon the applicant, and the board shall require

426 documentation, such as, but not limited to, an evaluation by a  
427 foreign equivalency determination service, as evidence that the  
428 applicant's graduate degree program and education were  
429 equivalent to an accredited program in this country. Beginning  
430 July 1, 2025, an applicant must have a master's degree in a  
431 program that is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of  
432 Counseling and Related Educational Programs which consists of at  
433 least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for  
434 licensure under this paragraph.

435 (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical experience in  
436 mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's  
437 level under the supervision of a licensed mental health  
438 counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as  
439 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
440 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
441 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
442 a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the  
443 practice of mental health counseling that did not include all  
444 the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b.,  
445 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience shall not  
446 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of seven of  
447 the courses required under sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b., as  
448 determined by the board, one of which must be a course in  
449 psychopathology or abnormal psychology. A doctoral internship  
450 may be applied toward the clinical experience requirement. A

451 licensed mental health professional must be on the premises when  
452 clinical services are provided by a registered intern in a  
453 private practice setting.

454 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
455 designated ~~provided~~ by the board ~~department~~ for this purpose.

456 (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of  
457 the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
458 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
459 and mental health counseling.

460 Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 491.0057, Florida  
461 Statutes, is amended to read:

462 491.0057 Dual licensure as a marriage and family  
463 therapist.—The department shall license as a marriage and family  
464 therapist any person who demonstrates to the board that he or  
465 she:

466 (3) Has passed the examination designated ~~provided~~ by the  
467 board ~~department~~ for marriage and family therapy.

468 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
469 491.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

470 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

471 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to  
472 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon  
473 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
474 demonstrates to the board that he or she:

475 (b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has

476 actively practiced the profession for which licensure is applied  
477 in another state for 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding  
478 licensure.

479 ~~2. Meets the education requirements of this chapter for~~  
480 ~~the profession for which licensure is applied.~~

481 ~~2.3.~~ Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing  
482 examination in another state or has passed the licensure  
483 examination in this state in the profession for which the  
484 applicant seeks licensure.

485 ~~3.4.~~ Holds a license in good standing, is not under  
486 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of  
487 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act  
488 that would constitute a violation of this chapter. ~~The fees paid~~  
489 ~~by any applicant for certification as a master social worker~~  
490 ~~under this section are nonrefundable.~~

491 Section 7. Section 491.0065, Florida Statutes, is  
492 repealed.

493 Section 8. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 491.007,  
494 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

495 491.007 Renewal of license, registration, or certificate.—

496 (2) Each applicant for renewal shall present satisfactory  
497 evidence that, in the period since the license or certificate  
498 was issued, the applicant has completed continuing education  
499 requirements set by rule of the board or department. Not more  
500 than 25 classroom hours of continuing education per year shall

501 | ~~be required. A certified master social worker is exempt from the~~  
 502 | ~~continuing education requirements for the first renewal of the~~  
 503 | ~~certificate.~~

504 | ~~(3) The board or department shall prescribe by rule a~~  
 505 | ~~method for the biennial renewal of an intern registration at a~~  
 506 | ~~fee set by rule, not to exceed \$100.~~

507 | Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 491.009, Florida  
 508 | Statutes, is amended to read:

509 | 491.009 Discipline.—

510 | ~~(2) The department, or, in the case of psychologists, the~~  
 511 | ~~board,~~ may enter an order denying licensure or imposing any of  
 512 | the penalties in s. 456.072(2) against any applicant for  
 513 | licensure or licensee who is found guilty of violating any  
 514 | provision of subsection (1) of this section or who is found  
 515 | guilty of violating any provision of s. 456.072(1).

516 | Section 10. Paragraphs (a) and (n) of subsection (1) of  
 517 | section 491.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

518 | 491.012 Violations; penalty; injunction.—

519 | (1) It is unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any  
 520 | person to:

521 | (a) Use the following titles or any combination thereof,  
 522 | unless she or he holds a valid, active license as a clinical  
 523 | social worker issued pursuant to this chapter:

- 524 | 1. "Licensed clinical social worker."
- 525 | 2. "Clinical social worker."

- 526 3. "Licensed social worker."
- 527 4. "Psychiatric social worker."
- 528 5. "Psychosocial worker."
- 529 6. "Certified master social worker."

530 (n) ~~Effective October 1, 2000,~~ Practice juvenile sexual  
 531 offender therapy in this state, as the practice is defined in s.  
 532 491.0144, for compensation, unless the person holds an active  
 533 license issued under this chapter and meets the requirements to  
 534 practice juvenile sexual offender therapy. An unlicensed person  
 535 may be employed by a program operated by or under contract with  
 536 the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Children  
 537 and Families if the program employs a professional who is  
 538 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, s. 490.0145, or s.  
 539 491.0144 who manages or supervises the treatment services.

540 Section 11. Section 491.0145, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 541 to read:

542 491.0145 Certified master social worker.—The department  
 543 shall license ~~may certify~~ an applicant for a designation as a  
 544 certified master social worker who, upon applying to the  
 545 department and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to  
 546 the board that he or she has met the following conditions:

- 547 (1) Has submitted ~~The applicant completes~~ an application  
 548 and has paid ~~to be provided by the department and pays~~ a  
 549 nonrefundable fee not to exceed \$250 to be established by rule  
 550 of the board ~~department~~. ~~The completed application must be~~

551 ~~received by the department at least 60 days before the date of~~  
552 ~~the examination in order for the applicant to qualify to take~~  
553 ~~the scheduled exam.~~

554 (2) The applicant submits proof satisfactory to the board  
555 ~~department~~ that the applicant has received a doctoral degree in  
556 social work, or a master's degree in social work with a major  
557 emphasis or specialty in ~~clinical practice or administration,~~  
558 ~~including, but not limited to, agency~~ administration and  
559 supervision, program planning and evaluation, staff development,  
560 research, community organization, community services, social  
561 planning, and human service advocacy. Doctoral degrees must have  
562 been received from a graduate school of social work which at the  
563 time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by  
564 an accrediting agency approved by the United States Department  
565 of Education. Master's degrees must have been received from a  
566 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant  
567 was enrolled and graduated was accredited by the Council on  
568 Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools for  
569 ~~of~~ Social Work Education or by one that meets comparable  
570 standards.

571 (3) The applicant has had at least 2 ~~3~~ years' experience,  
572 as defined by rule, including, but not limited to, clinical  
573 services or administrative activities as defined in subsection  
574 (2), 2 years of which must be at the post-master's level under  
575 the supervision of a person who meets the education and

576 | experience requirements for certification as a certified master  
577 | social worker, as defined by rule, or licensure as a clinical  
578 | social worker under this chapter. A doctoral internship may be  
579 | applied toward the supervision requirement.

580 |       (4) Any person who holds a master's degree in social work  
581 | from institutions outside the United States may apply to the  
582 | board ~~department~~ for certification if the academic training in  
583 | social work has been evaluated as equivalent to a degree from a  
584 | school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Any  
585 | such person shall submit a copy of the academic training from  
586 | the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
587 | Social Work Education.

588 |       (5) The applicant has passed an examination required by  
589 | the board ~~department~~ for this purpose. ~~The nonrefundable fee for~~  
590 | ~~such examination may not exceed \$250 as set by department rule.~~

591 |       (6) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
592 | authorize a certified master social worker to provide clinical  
593 | social work services.

594 |       (7) The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

595 |       Section 12. Section 491.0149, Florida Statutes, is amended  
596 | to read:

597 |       491.0149 Display of license; use of professional title on  
598 | promotional materials.—

599 |       (1)(a) A person licensed under this chapter as a clinical  
600 | social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health



601 counselor, or certified as a master social worker shall  
602 conspicuously display the valid license issued by the department  
603 or a true copy thereof at each location at which the licensee  
604 practices his or her profession.

605 (b)1. A licensed clinical social worker shall include the  
606 words "licensed clinical social worker" or the letters "LCSW" on  
607 all promotional materials, including cards, brochures,  
608 stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the  
609 licensee.

610 2. A licensed marriage and family therapist shall include  
611 the words "licensed marriage and family therapist" or the  
612 letters "LMFT" on all promotional materials, including cards,  
613 brochures, stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs,  
614 naming the licensee.

615 3. A licensed mental health counselor shall include the  
616 words "licensed mental health counselor" or the letters "LMHC"  
617 on all promotional materials, including cards, brochures,  
618 stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the  
619 licensee.

620 (c) A generalist social worker shall include the words  
621 "certified master social worker" or the letters "CMSW" on all  
622 promotional materials, including cards, brochures, stationery,  
623 advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the licensee.

624 (2) (a) A person registered under this chapter as a  
625 clinical social worker intern, marriage and family therapist

626 | intern, or mental health counselor intern shall conspicuously  
627 | display the valid registration issued by the department or a  
628 | true copy thereof at each location at which the registered  
629 | intern is completing the experience requirements.

630 |       (b) A registered clinical social worker intern shall  
631 | include the words "registered clinical social worker intern," a  
632 | registered marriage and family therapist intern shall include  
633 | the words "registered marriage and family therapist intern," and  
634 | a registered mental health counselor intern shall include the  
635 | words "registered mental health counselor intern" on all  
636 | promotional materials, including cards, brochures, stationery,  
637 | advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the registered  
638 | intern.

639 |       (3) (a) A person provisionally licensed under this chapter  
640 | as a provisional clinical social worker licensee, provisional  
641 | marriage and family therapist licensee, or provisional mental  
642 | health counselor licensee shall conspicuously display the valid  
643 | provisional license issued by the department or a true copy  
644 | thereof at each location at which the provisional licensee is  
645 | providing services.

646 |       (b) A provisional clinical social worker licensee shall  
647 | include the words "provisional clinical social worker licensee,"  
648 | a provisional marriage and family therapist licensee shall  
649 | include the words "provisional marriage and family therapist  
650 | licensee," and a provisional mental health counselor licensee

651 shall include the words "provisional mental health counselor  
652 licensee" on all promotional materials, including cards,  
653 brochures, stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs,  
654 naming the provisional licensee.

655 Section 13. Section 491.015, Florida Statutes, is  
656 repealed.

657 Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
658 414.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

659 414.065 Noncompliance with work requirements.—

660 (4) EXCEPTIONS TO NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES.—Unless  
661 otherwise provided, the situations listed in this subsection  
662 shall constitute exceptions to the penalties for noncompliance  
663 with participation requirements, except that these situations do  
664 not constitute exceptions to the applicable time limit for  
665 receipt of temporary cash assistance:

666 (c) Noncompliance related to treatment or remediation of  
667 past effects of domestic violence.—An individual who is  
668 determined to be unable to comply with the work requirements  
669 under this section due to mental or physical impairment related  
670 to past incidents of domestic violence may be exempt from work  
671 requirements, except that such individual shall comply with a  
672 plan that specifies alternative requirements that prepare the  
673 individual for self-sufficiency while providing for the safety  
674 of the individual and the individual's dependents. A participant  
675 who is determined to be out of compliance with the alternative

676 requirement plan shall be subject to the penalties under  
677 subsection (1). The plan must include counseling or a course of  
678 treatment necessary for the individual to resume participation.  
679 The need for treatment and the expected duration of such  
680 treatment must be verified by a physician licensed under chapter  
681 458 or chapter 459; a psychologist licensed under s. 490.005(1),  
682 s. 490.006, or the provision identified as s. 490.013(2) in s.  
683 1, chapter 81-235, Laws of Florida; a therapist as defined in s.  
684 491.003(3) or (7) ~~s. 491.003(2) or (6)~~; or a treatment  
685 professional who is registered under s. 39.905(1)(g), is  
686 authorized to maintain confidentiality under s. 90.5036(1)(d),  
687 and has a minimum of 2 years' ~~years~~ experience at a certified  
688 domestic violence center. An exception granted under this  
689 paragraph does not automatically constitute an exception from  
690 the time limitations on benefits specified under s. 414.105.

691 Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.