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I N A S S E M B L Y

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Introduced by M. of A. SWEENEY, DESTITO, CAHILL, FIELDS, MILLMAN,
PAULIN, GALEF, LUPARDO, BING, ALFANO, CLARK -- Multi-Sponsored by --
M. of A. BARRA, BENEDETTO, CHRISTENSEN, DINOWITZ, GUNTHER, HOOPER,
JOHN, LATIMER, MARKEY, MAYERSOHN, PHEFFER, WEISENBERG -- read once and
referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to licensing of genetic
counselors

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 142
2 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 142
4 GENETIC COUNSELING

5 SECTION 7050. INTRODUCTION.

6 7051. DEFINITIONS.

7 7052. THE PRACTICE OF GENETIC COUNSELING.

8 7053. STATE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC COUNSELING.

9 7054. REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE.

10 7055. EXEMPT PERSONS.

11 7056. LIMITED PERMITS.

12 S 7050. INTRODUCTION. THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO THE LICENSING OF GENETIC
13 COUNSELORS. THE GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ALL PROFESSIONS CONTAINED IN
14 ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS TITLE APPLY TO THIS ARTICLE.

15 S 7051. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE:

16 1. THE TERM "GENETIC COUNSELOR" SHALL MEAN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO
17 IS ACADEMICALLY AND CLINICALLY PREPARED TO PROVIDE GENETIC COUNSELING
18 SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THE
19 OCCURRENCE, RISK OF OCCURRENCE OR RECURRENCE, OF A GENETIC OR HEREDITARY
20 CONDITION OR BIRTH DEFECT.

21 2. THE TERM "LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELOR" SHALL MEAN A GENETIC COUNSE-
22 LOR LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 S 7052. THE PRACTICE OF GENETIC COUNSELING. 1. THE "PRACTICE OF GENET-
2 IC COUNSELING" SHALL MEAN THE COMMUNICATION TO AND EDUCATION OF CLIENTS,
3 THEIR FAMILIES, OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC
4 WITH REGARDS TO GENETIC TESTING, INDIVIDUAL FAMILY HISTORIES, OR OTHER
5 GENETIC, MEDICAL, AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCUR-
6 RENCE, RISK OF OCCURRENCE OR RECURRENCE, OF A GENETIC OR HEREDITARY
7 CONDITION OR BIRTH DEFECT IN A COMPREHENSIVE, UNDERSTANDABLE, ETHICAL
8 MANNER. A PRACTITIONER OF GENETIC COUNSELING SHALL SEEK TO PROMOTE
9 DECISION-MAKING IN AN UNBIASED NON-COERCIVE MANNER WHICH RESPECTS THE
10 INDIVIDUAL'S CULTURE, LANGUAGE, TRADITION, LIFESTYLE, RELIGION, BELIEFS
11 AND VALUES. GENETIC COUNSELING SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO,
12 THE FOLLOWING:

13 (A) ELICITING INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY MEDICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND REPRO-
14 DUCTIVE HISTORIES;

15 (B) DETERMINING THE LIKELY COURSE OR MODE OF INHERITANCE AND RISK OF
16 OCCURRENCE OR RECURRENCE OF A GENETIC OR HEREDITARY CONDITION OR BIRTH
17 DEFECT;

18 (C) EXPLAINING THE RESULTS OF GENETIC TESTS AND INTERPRETING AND
19 EXPLAINING OTHER DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES;

20 (D) IDENTIFYING EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL ISSUES
21 RELATED SOLELY TO GENETIC TESTING AND INFORMATION;

22 (E) FACILITATING INFORMED DECISION-MAKING ABOUT GENETIC TESTING AND
23 CONVEYING THE RESULTS OF GENETIC TESTS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS;

24 (F) COMMUNICATING DETAILED GENETIC INFORMATION TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES
25 CLEARLY AND CONCISELY WHILE BRIDGING CULTURAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND EDUCA-
26 TIONAL DIFFERENCES; AND

27 (G) IDENTIFYING AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE
28 COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATIONAL, FINANCIAL, MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL
29 SUPPORT, AND ADVOCACY.

30 2. NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO AUTHORIZE A LICENSED
31 GENETIC COUNSELOR TO DIAGNOSE OR TREAT ANY GENETIC DISEASE OR CONDITION.
32 LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELORS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT PATIENT/CLIENT
33 CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMED CONSENT ARE MAINTAINED CONSISTENT WITH
34 EXISTING FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.

35 3. PRACTICE OF GENETIC COUNSELING, AND USE OF THE TITLES "GENETIC
36 COUNSELOR" AND "LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELOR" AND THE USE OF THE LETTERS
37 "L.G.C." AFTER THE NAME SHALL BE RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY TO PERSONS
38 LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. ONLY A PERSON LICENSED OR EXEMPT
39 UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL PRACTICE GENETIC COUNSELING OR USE THE TITLE
40 "GENETIC COUNSELOR". ONLY A PERSON LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL USE
41 THE TITLE "LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELOR" OR ANY OTHER DESIGNATION TENDING
42 TO IMPLY THAT A PERSON IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE GENETIC COUNSELING.

43 S 7053. STATE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC COUNSELING. 1. A STATE COMMITTEE
44 FOR GENETIC COUNSELING SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS UPON
45 THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER AND SHALL ASSIST ON MATTERS OF
46 LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION SIXTY-FIVE
47 HUNDRED EIGHT OF THIS TITLE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION
48 SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT OF THIS TITLE, THE COMMITTEE SHALL ASSIST THE
49 BOARD FOR MEDICINE SOLELY IN GENETIC COUNSELING MATTERS. MEMBERS OF THE
50 FIRST COMMITTEE NEED NOT BE LICENSED PRIOR TO THEIR APPOINTMENT TO SUCH
51 COMMITTEE. THE TERMS OF THE FIRST APPOINTED MEMBERS SHALL BE STAGGERED
52 SO THAT THREE MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED FOR THREE YEARS, FOUR MEMBERS ARE
53 APPOINTED FOR FOUR YEARS AND TWO MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED FOR FIVE YEARS.
54 AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD
55 OF REGENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER.

2. THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF NINE INDIVIDUALS, TO BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) SIX LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELORS WITH A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE YEARS OF FIELD EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH PATIENTS OR THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE FIELD OF GENETIC COUNSELING;

(B) ONE LICENSED PHYSICIAN;

(C) ONE LICENSED PSYCHIATRIST; AND

(D) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

3. BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TERMS OF FIVE YEARS. VACANCIES SHORT OF A FULL TERM SHALL BE FILLED TO COMPLETE THE TIME REMAINING IN THE TERM OF THE MEMBER VACATING.

S 7054. REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE. TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENSE AS A "LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELOR", AN APPLICANT SHALL FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. APPLICATION: FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT;

2. EDUCATION: HAVE RECEIVED A MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL DEGREE IN GENETIC COUNSELING FROM A PROGRAM REGISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS. APPROPRIATE COURSEWORK SHALL BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC COUNSELING.

3. EXPERIENCE: HAVE GENETIC COUNSELING EXPERIENCE SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT AS DEFINED IN SECTION SEVEN THOUSAND FIFTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS. SUCH EXPERIENCE SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION OF SUPERVISED CASE-WORK AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES DEEMED ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

4. EXAMINATION: PASS AN EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS, IN GENETIC COUNSELING AND/OR GENERAL GENETICS;

5. AGE: BE AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE;

6. CHARACTER: BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

7. FEES: PAY A FEE OF THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR AN INITIAL LICENSE AND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT RE-REGISTRATION OF A LICENSE; AND

8. CONTINUING EDUCATION: AT THE TIME OF RE-REGISTRATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, EACH APPLICANT SHALL PRESENT SATISFACTORY DOCUMENTATION TO THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC COUNSELING THAT SINCE LAST REGISTRATION THEY ATTENDED THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF GENETIC COUNSELING OR THE EQUIVALENT OF SUCH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AS APPROVED BY THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC COUNSELING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRIENNIALLY RE-REGISTER A LICENSE UPON RECEIPT OF A RE-REGISTRATION APPLICATION. THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION SEVEN THOUSAND FIFTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA AS A CONDITION OF LICENSE RE-REGISTRATION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE NUMBER OF HOURS AND/OR EDUCATION UNITS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

S 7055. EXEMPT PERSONS. THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE PRACTICE OF GENETIC COUNSELING BY LICENSED PHYSICIANS OR OTHER LICENSED PROFESSIONALS PURSUANT TO TITLE EIGHT OF THIS CHAPTER TO OPERATE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR PROFESSION'S LICENSE. SUCH EXEMPT PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE TITLE "LICENSED GENETIC COUNSELOR" AS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS ARTICLE.

1 S 7056. LIMITED PERMITS. PERMITS LIMITED AS TO ELIGIBILITY, PRACTICE
2 AND DURATION SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS,
3 AS FOLLOWS:

4 1. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE A LIMITED PERMIT TO AN APPLICANT WHO MEETS
5 ALL QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AS A GENETIC COUNSELOR, EXCEPT THE
6 EXAMINATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGU-
7 LATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

8 2. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE LIMITED PERMITS TO FOREIGN TRAINED GENETIC
9 COUNSELORS THAT APPLY IF THEY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE PURSU-
10 ANT TO SECTION SEVEN THOUSAND FIFTY-FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE.

11 3. LIMITED PERMITS SHALL BE FOR ONE YEAR. LIMITED PERMITS MAY BE
12 RE-REGISTERED, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT, FOR ONE ADDITIONAL
13 YEAR.

14 4. AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A LIMITED PERMIT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE
15 GENETIC COUNSELING ONLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED GENETIC
16 COUNSELOR, OR LICENSED PHYSICIAN. SUPERVISION SHALL MEAN THE REVIEW OF
17 GENETIC COUNSELING AS PROVIDED BY SECTION SEVEN THOUSAND FIFTY-TWO OF
18 THIS ARTICLE AND CASE MANAGEMENT AS APPROPRIATE THAT INCLUDE REGULAR
19 CHART REVIEWS OF CLIENTS WITH THE LIMITED PERMITTEE AND THE SUPERVISOR.

20 5. THE FEE FOR EACH LIMITED PERMIT AND FOR EACH RE-REGISTRATION SHALL
21 BE TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

22 S 2. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part
23 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to
24 be invalid and after exhaustion of all further judicial review, the
25 judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof,
26 but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, para-
27 graph, section or part of this act directly involved in the controversy
28 in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

29 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
30 within two years of the effective date of this act, the addition, amend-
31 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
32 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to
33 be made and completed on or before such effective date; provided,
34 further, that with respect to those persons who are licensed under arti-
35 cle one hundred forty-two of the education law on or before the trienni-
36 al registration period next succeeding the effective date of this act,
37 the continuing education requirements set forth in this act need not be
38 completed until after the second triennial registration period.