

STATE OF NEW YORK

4463

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 9, 2023

Introduced by Sens. HELMING, GALLIVAN -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requirements for
licensure of certain mental health practitioners and providing certain
mental health practitioners authority to give diagnosis

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 8402 of the education law, as
2 added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

3 2. Practice of mental health counseling and use of the titles "mental
4 health counselor" and "licensed mental health counselor". (a) Only a
5 person licensed or exempt under this article shall practice mental
6 health counseling or use the title "mental health counselor". Only a
7 person licensed under this article shall use the title "licensed mental
8 health counselor" or any other designation tending to imply that the
9 person is licensed to practice mental health counseling.

10 (b) Mental health counselors who have obtained the diagnosis privilege
11 set forth in section eighty-four hundred two-a of this article may diag-
12 nose mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and developmental disor-
13 ders and disabilities and of the psychosocial aspects of illness, inju-
14 ry, disability and impairment undertaken within a psychosocial
15 framework.

16 § 2. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision 3 of section 8402 of the
17 education law, paragraph (b) as added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002
18 and paragraph (c) as amended by chapter 130 of the laws of 2010, are
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (b) Education: Have received an education, including a master's or
21 higher degree in counseling from a program registered by the department
22 or determined by the department to be the substantial equivalent there-
23 of, which includes the completion of at least twelve credit hours of
24 clinical courses, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. A

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

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1 person who has received a master's, or equivalent degree in counseling,
2 during which they did not complete all twelve credit hours of clinical
3 courses, may satisfy this requirement by completing any remaining equiv-
4 alent post-graduate clinical courses, in accordance with the commission-
5 er's regulations. The graduate coursework shall include, but not be
6 limited to, the following areas:

7 (i) human growth and development;
8 (ii) social and cultural foundations of counseling;
9 (iii) counseling theory and practice and psychopathology;
10 (iv) group dynamics;
11 (v) lifestyle and career development;
12 (vi) assessment and appraisal of individuals, couples and families and
13 groups;
14 (vii) research and program evaluation;
15 (viii) professional orientation and ethics;
16 (ix) foundations of mental health counseling and consultation;
17 (x) clinical instruction; and
18 (xi) completion of a minimum one year supervised internship or practi-
19 cum in mental health counseling;

20 (c) Experience: An applicant shall complete a minimum of three thou-
21 sand hours of post-master's supervised experience relevant to the prac-
22 tice of mental health counseling, two thousand hours of which shall
23 include diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment plans,
24 satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's
25 regulations. Satisfactory experience obtained in an entity operating
26 under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to section sixty-five
27 hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department,
28 notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained prior to the
29 effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior
30 to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good
31 cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained in a
32 setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not
33 obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was obtained in
34 good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropriate authori-
35 zation had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experi-
36 ence meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;

37 § 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 8402-a to
38 read as follows:

39 § 8402-a. Diagnosis privilege; mental health counseling. 1. Applicants
40 licensed on January first, two thousand twenty-eight or thereafter are
41 authorized to diagnose, as provided in paragraph (b) of subdivision two
42 of section eighty-four hundred two of this article, and as defined in
43 subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article
44 without meeting any additional requirements.

45 2. Applicants for license as a mental health counselor who have been
46 issued a limited permit after successfully completing the requirements
47 of paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred two
48 of this article, which includes twelve credit hours of clinical courses,
49 are authorized to diagnose as provided in paragraph (b) of subdivision
50 two of section eighty-four hundred two of this article, and as defined
51 in subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article,
52 while under supervision.

53 3. Those licensed prior to January first, two thousand twenty-seven,
54 shall be granted the privilege to diagnose as provided in paragraph (b)
55 of subdivision two of section eighty-four hundred two of this article,

1 and as defined in subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one
2 of this article, if the licensee fulfills the following requirements:

3 (a) Files an application with the department;

4 (b) Is licensed and registered as a mental health counselor; and:

5 (i) Provides verification of twelve credit hours of clinical course
6 work as defined by the department from a college or university accepta-
7 ble to the department; or

8 (ii) Provides verification of a minimum of two years of employment as
9 a licensed mental health counselor by a licensed supervisor or colleague
10 on forms acceptable to the department, in a program or service operated,
11 regulated, funded, or approved by the department of mental hygiene, the
12 office of children and family services, the office of temporary and
13 disability assistance, the department of corrections and community
14 supervision, the state office for the aging, the department of health,
15 or a local governmental unit as that term is defined in article forty-
16 one of the mental hygiene law or a social services district as defined
17 in section sixty-one of the social services law; or

18 (iii) Provides verification of being licensed as a licensed mental
19 health counselor for a minimum of two years; and

20 (1) Provides documentation of at least six credit hours of clinical
21 coursework as defined by the department from a college or university
22 acceptable to the department; or

23 (2) Provides documentation of at least twelve hours of continuing
24 education in clinical coursework subject to section eighty-four hundred
25 twelve-a of this article; and

26 (c) Pays a fee to the department of two hundred twenty dollars.

27 4. A privilege to diagnose issued under this section shall be valid
28 for the life of the holder, unless revoked, annulled, or suspended by
29 the board of regents. Such a privilege shall be subject to the same
30 oversight and disciplinary provisions as licenses issued under this
31 title.

32 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 8403 of the education law, as added by
33 chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

34 2. Practice of marriage and family therapy and use of the titles
35 "marriage and family therapist" and "licensed marriage and family thera-
36 pist". (a) Only a person licensed or exempt under this article shall
37 practice marriage and family therapy or use the title "marriage and
38 family therapist". Only a person licensed under this article shall use
39 the titles "licensed marriage and family therapist", "licensed marriage
40 therapist", "licensed family therapist" or any other designation tending
41 to imply that the person is licensed to practice marriage and family
42 therapy.

43 (b) Marriage and family therapists who have obtained the diagnosis
44 privilege set forth in section eighty-four hundred three-a of this arti-
45 cle may diagnose mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and develop-
46 mental disorders and disabilities and of the psychosocial aspects of
47 illness, injury, disability and impairment undertaken within a psychoso-
48 cial framework.

49 § 5. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision 3 of section 8403 of the
50 education law, paragraph (b) as added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002
51 and paragraph (c) as amended by chapter 130 of the laws of 2010, are
52 amended to read as follows:

53 (b) Education: Have received a master's or doctoral degree in marriage
54 and family therapy from a program registered by the department, or
55 determined by the department to be the substantial equivalent, which
56 includes the completion of at least twelve credit hours of clinical

1 coursework in accordance with the commissioner's regulations or a gradu-
2 ate degree in an allied field from a program registered by the depart-
3 ment and graduate level coursework determined to be equivalent to that
4 required in a program registered by the department. A person who has
5 received a master's, or equivalent degree in marriage and family thera-
6 py, during which they did not complete all twelve credit hours of clin-
7 ical courses, may satisfy this requirement by completing any remaining
8 equivalent post-graduate clinical courses, in accordance with the
9 commissioner's regulations. This coursework shall include, but not be
10 limited to:

11 (i) the study of human development, including individual, child and
12 family development;

13 (ii) psychopathology;

14 (iii) marital and family therapy;

15 (iv) family law;

16 (v) research;

17 (vi) professional ethics; and

18 (vii) a practicum of at least three hundred client contact hours;

19 (c) Experience: The completion of at least [~~one~~] two thousand [~~five~~
20 ~~hundred~~] client contact hours of supervised clinical experience, by
21 persons holding a degree from a master's or doctoral program, or the
22 substantial equivalent, in accordance with the commissioner's regu-
23 lations or the completion of at least [~~one~~] two thousand [~~five—hundred~~]
24 client contact hours of supervised post-master's clinical experience in
25 marriage and family therapy satisfactory to the department in accordance
26 with the commissioner's regulations. The two thousand client contact
27 hours shall include diagnosis, psychotherapy and assessment based treat-
28 ment plans. Satisfactory experience obtained in an entity operating
29 under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to section sixty-five
30 hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department,
31 notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained prior to the
32 effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior
33 to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good
34 cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained in a
35 setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not
36 obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was obtained in
37 good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropriate authori-
38 zation had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experi-
39 ence meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;

40 § 6. The education law is amended by adding a new section 8403-a to
41 read as follows:

42 § 8403-a. Diagnosis privilege; marriage and family therapist. 1.
43 Applicants for license as a marriage and family therapist who were
44 licensed on January first, two thousand twenty-eight or thereafter are
45 authorized to diagnose, as provided in paragraph (b) of subdivision two
46 of section eighty-four hundred three of this article, and as defined in
47 subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article
48 without meeting any additional requirements.

49 2. Applicants for license as a marriage and family therapist who have
50 been issued a limited permit after successfully completing the require-
51 ments of paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section eighty-four
52 hundred three of this article, which includes twelve credit hours of
53 clinical courses, are authorized to diagnose as provided in paragraph
54 (b) of subdivision two of section eighty-four hundred three of this
55 article, and as defined in subdivision three of section eighty-four
56 hundred one of this article, while under supervision.

1 3. Those licensed as a marriage and family therapist prior to January
2 first, two thousand twenty-eight, shall be granted the privilege to
3 diagnose as provided in paragraph (b) of subdivision two of section
4 eighty-four hundred three of this article, and as defined in subdivision
5 three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article, if the licen-
6 see fulfills the following requirements:

7 (a) Files an application with the department;

8 (b) Is licensed and registered as a marriage and family therapist;
9 and:

10 (i) Provides verification of twelve credit hours of clinical
11 coursework as defined by the department from a college or university
12 acceptable to the department; or

13 (ii) Provides verification of a minimum of two years of employment as
14 a licensed marriage and family therapist by a licensed supervisor or
15 colleague on forms acceptable to the department, in a program or service
16 operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of mental
17 hygiene, the office of children and family services, the office of
18 temporary and disability assistance, the department of corrections
19 and community supervision, the state office for the aging, the
20 department of health, or a local governmental unit as that term is
21 defined in article forty-one of the mental hygiene law or a social
22 services district as defined in section sixty-one of the social services
23 law; or

24 (iii) Provides verification of being licensed as a licensed marriage
25 and family therapist for a minimum of two years and:

26 (1) Provides documentation of at least six credit hours of clinical
27 coursework as defined by the department from a college or university
28 acceptable to the department; or

29 (2) Provides documentation of at least twelve hours of continuing
30 education in clinical coursework subject to section eighty-four hundred
31 twelve-a of this article; and

32 (c) Pays a fee to the department of two hundred twenty dollars.

33 4. A privilege to diagnose issued under this section shall be valid
34 for the life of the holder, unless revoked, annulled, or suspended by
35 the board of regents. Such a privilege shall be subject to the same
36 oversight and disciplinary provisions as licenses issued under this
37 title.

38 § 7. Subdivision 2 of section 8405 of the education law, as added by
39 chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

40 2. Practice of psychoanalysis and use of the titles "psychoanalyst"
41 and "licensed psychoanalyst". (a) Only a person licensed or exempt under
42 this article shall practice psychoanalysis or use the title "psychoana-
43 lyst". Only a person licensed under this article shall use the title
44 "licensed psychoanalyst" or any other designation tending to imply that
45 the person is licensed to practice psychoanalysis.

46 (b) Psychoanalysts who have obtained the diagnosis privilege as set
47 forth in section eighty-four hundred five-a of this article may diagnose
48 mental, emotional, behavioral, addictive and developmental disorders and
49 disabilities and of the psychosocial aspects of illness, injury, disa-
50 bility and impairment undertaken within a psychosocial framework.

51 § 8. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivision 3 of section 8405 of the
52 education law, paragraph (b) as added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002
53 and paragraph (c) as amended by chapter 130 of the laws of 2010, are
54 amended to read as follows:

55 (b) Education: Have received a master's degree or higher from a
56 degree-granting program registered by the department or the substantial

equivalent and have completed a program of study registered by the department in a psychoanalytic institute chartered by the board of regents or the substantial equivalent as determined by the department. The program of study in a psychoanalytic institute shall include coursework substantially equivalent to coursework required for a master's degree in a health or mental health field of study and shall also include the completion of at least twelve credit hours of clinical courses. An individual who has completed a licensed psychoanalyst program that did not include twelve credit hours of clinical courses may satisfy this requirement by completing any remaining equivalent post-graduate clinical courses, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. The coursework shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

(i) personality development;
(ii) psychoanalytic theory of psychopathology;
(iii) psychoanalytic theory of psychodiagnosis;
(iv) sociocultural influence on growth and psychopathology;
(v) practice technique (including dreams and symbolic processes);
(vi) analysis of resistance, transference, and countertransference;
(vii) case seminars on clinical practice;
(viii) practice in psychopathology and psychodiagnosis;
(ix) professional ethics and psychoanalytic research methodology; and
(x) a minimum of three hundred hours of personal analysis and one hundred fifty hours of supervised analysis;

(c) Experience: Have completed a minimum of [~~fifteen hundred~~] two thousand hours of supervised clinical practice which shall include diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment plans satisfactory to the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. Satisfactory experience obtained in an entity operating under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department, notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained prior to the effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained in a setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was obtained in good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropriate authorization had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experience meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;

§ 9. The education law is amended by adding a new section 8405-a to read as follows:

§ 8405-a. Diagnosis privilege. 1. Applicants licensed on January first, two thousand twenty-seven or thereafter are authorized to diagnose as provided in paragraph (b) of subdivision two of section eighty-four hundred five of this article and further defined in subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article without meeting any additional requirements.

2. Applicants for license as a psychoanalyst who have been issued a limited permit after successfully completing the requirements of paragraph (b) of subdivision two of section eighty-four hundred five of this article, which includes twelve credit hours of clinical courses are authorized to diagnose as provided in paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred five of this article, and as defined in subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article while under supervision.

3. For those licensed prior to January first, two thousand twenty-seven, shall be granted the privilege to diagnose as provided in paragraph (c) of subdivision one of section eighty-four hundred five of this article, and further defined in subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred one of this article if the licensee fulfills the following requirements:

(a) Files an application with the department;

(b) Is licensed and registered as a psychoanalyst; and

(i) Provides verification of twelve credit hours of clinical course work as defined by the department from a college, university, or institute acceptable to the department; or

(ii) Provides verification of a minimum of two years of employment as a licensed psychoanalyst by a licensed supervisor or colleague on forms acceptable to the department, in a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the department of mental hygiene, the office of children and family services, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the department of corrections and community supervision, the state office for the aging, the department of health, or a local governmental unit as that term is defined in article forty-one of the mental hygiene law or a social services district as defined in section sixty-one of the social services law; or

(iii) Provides verification of being licensed as a licensed psychoanalyst for a minimum of three years; and

(1) Provides documentation of at least six credit hours of clinical coursework as defined by the department from a college, university, or institute acceptable to the department; or

(2) Provides documentation of at least twelve hours of continuing education in clinical coursework subject to section eighty-four hundred twelve-a of this article; and

(c) Pays a fee to the department of two hundred twenty dollars.

4. A privilege to diagnose issued under this section shall be valid for the life of the holder, unless revoked, annulled, or suspended by the board of regents. Such a privilege shall be subject to the same oversight and disciplinary provisions as licenses issued under this title.

§ 10. Subdivision 2 of section 8409 of the education law, as amended by chapter 485 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

2. Limited permits shall be for ~~[two]~~ **three** years; such limited permits may be renewed, at the discretion of the department, for up to two additional one year periods.

§ 11. Section 8410 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 12 to read as follows:

12. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or limit the activities or services provided under this article on the part of any person who, upon the effective date of this subdivision, is in the employ of a program or service, as defined in this article, for the period during which such person maintains employment in such program or service. This section shall not authorize the use of any title authorized pursuant to this article by any such employed person, except as otherwise provided by this article respectively. Provided however, that any person who commences employment in such program or service on or after July first, two thousand twenty-three and performs services that are restricted under this article shall be appropriately licensed or authorized under this article.

§ 12. The education law is amended by adding a new section 8412-a to read as follows:

§ 8412-a. Continuing education for diagnosis privilege. 1. Continuing education required in clause two of subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred two-a of this article shall:

(a) Be offered by a provider approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred twelve of this article; and

(b) In addition to meeting the standards set forth in paragraph (a) of subdivision three of section eighty-four hundred twelve of this article, be determined by the department as providing clinical content in the following areas:

(i) Diagnosis in clinical practice;

(ii) Assessment based treatment; or

(iii) Clinical practice with general and special populations.

2. The department shall maintain a list of continuing education approved by the department as meeting the requirements of this section.

3. A separate continuing education approval application fee, as determined by the department, shall be applied to providers seeking approval of continuing education that meets the requirements of this section.

§ 13. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law, provided that sections three, six and nine of this act shall take effect January 1, 2028. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.