

Senator Todd Weiler proposes the following substitute bill:

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR LICENSING AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to the licensure of a clinical mental health counselor.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ permits an individual seeking licensure as a clinical mental health counselor to satisfy certain licensure requirements by passing the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

58-60-405, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 77

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



26 Section 1. Section **58-60-405** is amended to read:

27 **58-60-405. Qualifications for licensure.**

28 (1) An applicant for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor shall:

29 (a) submit an application on a form provided by the division;

30 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section [63J-1-504](#);

31 (c) be of good moral character;

32 (d) produce certified transcripts from an accredited institution of higher education

33 recognized by the division in collaboration with the board verifying satisfactory completion of:

34 (i) an education and degree in an education program in counseling, including
35 rehabilitation counseling, with a core curriculum defined by division rule under Section

36 [58-1-203](#) preparing one to competently engage in mental health therapy; and

37 (ii) an earned doctoral or master's degree resulting from that education program;

38 (e) have completed a minimum of 4,000 hours of clinical mental health counselor
39 training as defined by division rule under Section [58-1-203](#):

40 (i) in not less than two years;

41 (ii) under the supervision of a clinical mental health counselor, psychiatrist,
42 psychologist, clinical social worker, registered psychiatric mental health nurse specialist, or
43 marriage and family therapist supervisor approved by the division in collaboration with the
44 board;

45 (iii) obtained after completion of the education requirement in Subsection (1)(d); and

46 (iv) including a minimum of two hours of training in suicide prevention via a course
47 that the division designates as approved;

48 (f) document successful completion of not less than 1,000 hours of supervised training
49 in mental health therapy obtained after completion of the education requirement in Subsection
50 (1)(d), which training may be included as part of the 4,000 hours of training in Subsection
51 (1)(e), and of which documented evidence demonstrates not less than 100 of the hours were
52 obtained under the direct supervision of a mental health therapist, as defined by rule; and

53 (g) pass the examination requirement established by division rule under Section
54 [58-1-203](#).

55 (2) (a) An applicant for licensure as an associate clinical mental health counselor shall
56 comply with the provisions of Subsections (1)(a), (b), (c), and (d).

57 (b) Except as provided under Subsection (2)(c), an individual's licensure as an
58 associate clinical mental health counselor is limited to the period of time necessary to complete
59 clinical training as described in Subsections (1)(e) and (f) and extends not more than one year
60 from the date the minimum requirement for training is completed.

61 (c) The time period under Subsection (2)(b) may be extended to a maximum of two
62 years past the date the minimum supervised clinical training requirement has been completed,
63 if the applicant presents satisfactory evidence to the division and the appropriate board that the
64 individual is:

65 (i) making reasonable progress toward passing of the qualifying examination for that
66 profession; or

67 (ii) otherwise on a course reasonably expected to lead to licensure.

68 (3) Successfully passing the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination
69 through the National Board for Certified Counselors shall satisfy the education requirement
70 described in Subsection (1)(d) if the applicant submits documentation from the National Board
71 for Certified Counselors certifying that the applicant's score on the National Clinical Mental
72 Health Counselor Examination is valid and in good standing.