

1 HB166
2 189312-2
3 By Representatives Davis, Sanderford, Faust, Jackson,
4 Nordgren, Shedd, Wilcox, Bracy, Buskey, Ingram, Polizos,
5 Greer, Drake and Collins
6 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
7 First Read: 11-JAN-18

1 ENGROSSED

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
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8 Relating to the Board of Marriage and Family
9 Therapy; to amend Section 34-17A-3 of the Code of Alabama
10 1975, to further define the practice of marriage and family
11 therapy.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. Section 34-17A-3 of the Code of Alabama
14 1975, is amended to read as follows:

15 "§34-17A-3.

16 "As used in this chapter, the following words have
17 the following meanings:

18 "(1) ADVERTISE. The issuing or causing to be
19 distributed any card, sign, or device to any person; or the
20 causing, permitting, or allowing any sign or marking on or in
21 any building, radio or television, transmission or broadcast,
22 or advertising by any media or other means designed to secure
23 public attention.

24 "(2) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Examiners in
25 Marriage and Family Therapy.

1 "(3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST. A person to whom
2 a valid, current license has been issued pursuant to this
3 chapter.

4 "(4) PERSON. Any individual, firm, corporation,
5 partnership, organization, political body, or other entity.

6 "(5) PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY. The
7 process of providing professional marriage and family therapy
8 to individuals, couples, and families, either alone or in a
9 group or in a school system. The practice of marriage and
10 family therapy utilizes established principles that recognize
11 the interrelated nature of the individual problems and
12 dysfunctions in family members in order to diagnose, assess,
13 ~~understand,~~ and treat ~~emotional and mental problems~~ mental and
14 emotional disorders. Marriage and family therapy includes,
15 without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual,
16 family, ~~and~~ divorce therapy, and psychotherapy, whether the
17 services are offered directly to the general public or through
18 organizations, either public or private, for a fee or other
19 compensation. Marriage and family therapy is a specialized
20 mode of treatment for the purpose of resolving mental and
21 emotional ~~problems~~ disorders and modifying intrapersonal and
22 interpersonal dysfunctions. The terms "diagnose," "assess" and
23 "treat" as used in this subdivision, when considered in
24 isolation or in conjunction with the rules of the board, shall
25 not be construed to permit the performance of any act which
26 marriage and family therapists are not educated and trained to
27 perform, ~~including, but not limited to, administering and~~

1 ~~interpreting psychological tests, intellectual,~~
2 ~~neuropsychological, personality, and projective instruments,~~
3 ~~admitting persons to hospitals for treatment for the foregoing~~
4 ~~conditions, treating persons in hospitals without medical~~
5 ~~supervision, prescribing medicinal drugs, authorizing clinical~~
6 ~~laboratory procedures or radiological procedures, or use of~~
7 ~~electroconvulsive therapy.~~ In addition, this definition shall
8 not be construed to permit any person licensed pursuant to
9 this chapter to describe or label any test, report, or
10 procedure as "psychological," or as a "psychological
11 evaluation."

12 "(6) QUALIFIED SUPERVISION. The supervision of
13 clinical services in accordance with standards established by
14 the board. The supervisor shall be recognized by the board as
15 an approved supervisor.

16 "(7) RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION. Any
17 educational institution which grants a bachelor's, master's,
18 or doctoral degree and which is recognized by the board and by
19 a regional educational accrediting body or a postgraduate
20 training institute accredited by the Commission on
21 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

22 "(8) USE A TITLE OR DESCRIPTION. To hold oneself out
23 to the public as having a particular status by means of
24 stating on signs, mailboxes, address plates, stationery
25 announcements, calling cards, or other instruments of
26 professional identification."

1 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
2 first day of the third month following its passage and
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Boards, Agencies
and Commissions..... 11-JAN-18

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar..... 25-JAN-18

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 06-FEB-18

Yeas 68, Nays 14, Abstains 5

Jeff Woodard
Clerk