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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, termination dates are established for enumerated state agencies. The agencies are periodically reviewed by the Alabama Sunset Committee. After the review process is completed, the committee prepares its recommendation for the agencies to the Legislature in the form of sunset bills which either continue, terminate, or continue with modification each agency reviewed.

This bill would provide for the continuance of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy until October 1, 2027, with the following change: To require that no two board members reside in the same congressional district.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy until October 1, 2027, with certain modifications; to amend Section 34-17A-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to require that no two board members reside in



29 the same congressional district.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. Pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law, the
32 Sunset Committee recommends the continuance of the Alabama
33 Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy until
34 October 1, 2027, with additional recommendation for statutory
35 change as set out in Section 3.

36 Section 2. The existence and functioning of the Alabama
37 Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy, created and
38 functioning pursuant to Sections 34-17A-1 to 34-17A-26,
39 inclusive, Code of Alabama 1975, is continued until October 1,
40 2027, and those code sections are expressly preserved.

41 Section 3. Section 34-17A-6, Code of Alabama 1975, is
42 amended to read as follows:

43 "§34-17A-6

44 (a) There is created the Alabama Board of Examiners in
45 Marriage and Family Therapy. The board shall consist of five
46 members who are ~~citizens~~ residents of this state and appointed
47 by the Governor. In appointing members to the board, the
48 Governor shall ~~select those persons whose appointments would~~
49 ~~ensure that, to the extent possible, the membership of the~~
50 ~~board reflects the geographic, gender, and racial diversity of~~
51 ~~the state as a whole~~ coordinate his or her appointments to
52 assure the board's membership is inclusive and reflects the
53 racial gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic
54 diversity of the state. Commencing on June 1, 2025, as the
55 terms of the members serving on the board expire, the
56 membership of the board shall be appointed so that no two



57 members of the board reside in the same congressional
58 district. The board shall perform the duties and have the
59 powers as prescribed and conferred by this chapter. No member
60 of the board shall be civilly liable for any act performed in
61 good faith for the performance of his or her duties as a
62 member of the board.

63 (b) The professional membership of the board shall be
64 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

65 (c) Vacancies on the board shall be filled for the
66 remainder of the unexpired term. Members of the board shall
67 serve until their successors are appointed and have qualified.
68 Board members shall be ineligible for reappointment for a
69 period of three years following completion of their five-year
70 term.

71 (d) Appointments to the board shall be made by the
72 Governor as provided in this subsection. Not later than
73 October 1 of each year, the Board of Directors of the Alabama
74 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy shall submit to
75 the Governor the names of two qualified candidates for each
76 position on the board to be vacated by reason of expiration of
77 a term of office. From the two candidates, the Governor shall
78 appoint one member to serve on the board for a term of five
79 years. Other vacancies occurring on the board shall be filled
80 for the unexpired term by appointment of the Governor from two
81 candidates for each vacancy submitted by the Alabama
82 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy within 30 days
83 after the vacancy occurs. Composition of the board shall
84 consist of one public member, one marriage and family therapy



85 educator, and three practicing marriage and family therapists.

86 (e) The Governor may remove a member of the board only
87 for neglect of duty, malfeasance, or conviction of a felony or
88 crime of moral turpitude while in office. Notwithstanding the
89 foregoing, no member may be removed until after a public
90 hearing of the charges against him or her, and at least 30
91 days' prior written notice to the accused member of the
92 charges against him or her and of the date fixed for the
93 hearing. No board member shall participate in any matter
94 before the board in which he or she has a pecuniary interest,
95 personal bias, or other similar conflict of interest."

96 Section 4. The Legislature concurs in the
97 recommendation of the Sunset Committee as provided in Sections
98 1, 2, and 3.

99 Section 5. This act shall become effective on June 1,
100 2025.