

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 121

BY SENATOR MORRELL

MENTAL HEALTH. Clarifies certain definitions within the Louisiana Mental Health Counselor Licensing Act. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1103(6) and (9), relative to marriage and family therapy; to  
3 provide for definitions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:1103(6) and (9) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 §1103. Definitions

9 \* \* \*

10 (6) "Marriage and family therapy" means the professional application of  
11 psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in the **prevention,**  
12 **diagnosis,** assessment, and treatment of ~~individuals,~~ **mental, emotional, and**  
13 **behavioral disorders in an individual and relational disorders in** couples; and  
14 families.

15 \* \* \*

16 (9) "Practice of marriage and family therapy" means the rendering of  
17 professional marriage and family therapy **and psychotherapy** services, **limited to**

1           prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional,  
2           behavioral, relational, and addiction disorders to individuals, couples, and  
3           families, singly or in groups, whether such services are offered directly to the general  
4           public or through either public or private organizations for a fee, monetary or  
5           otherwise in accordance with professional training as prescribed by R.S. 37:1116  
6           and code of ethics/behavior involving the application of principles, methods, or  
7           procedures of the marriage and family therapy profession.

\*       \*       \*

9           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
10          signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
11          by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
12          vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
13          effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

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DIGEST

Morrell (SB 121)

Present law defines "marriage and family therapy" to mean the professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in the assessment and treatment of individuals, couples, and families.

Proposed law amends present law and defines "marriage and family therapy" to mean the professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in the prevention, diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in an individual and relational disorders in couples and families.

Present law defines "practice of marriage and family therapy" to mean the rendering of professional marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples, and families, singly or in groups, whether such services are offered directly to the general public or through either public or private organizations for a fee, monetary or otherwise.

Proposed law amends present law and defines "practice of marriage and family therapy" to mean the rendering of professional marriage and family therapy and psychotherapy services, limited to prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral, relational, and addiction disorders to individuals, couples, and families, singly or in groups, whether such services are offered directly to the general public or through either public or private organizations for a fee, monetary or otherwise in accordance with professional training as provided pursuant to present law and code of ethics/behavior involving the application of principles, methods, or procedures of the marriage and family therapy profession.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 37:1103(6) and (9))