

SENATE BILL NO. 121

BY SENATOR MORRELL

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1103(6) and (9) and to enact R.S. 37:1116(E) and (F), relative
3 to marriage and family therapy; to provide for definitions; to provide for an effective
4 date; and to provide for related 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 and R.S.
7 37:1116(E) and (F) are hereby enacted to read as 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**
18 **prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional,**
19 **behavioral, relational, and addiction disorders** to individuals, couples, and
20 families, singly or in groups, whether such services are offered directly to the general
21 public or through either public or private organizations for a fee, monetary or
22 otherwise **in accordance with professional training as prescribed by R.S. 37:1116**
23 **and code of ethics/behavior involving the application of principles, methods, or**
24 **procedures of the marriage and family therapy profession.**

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26 §1116. Licensure application for marriage and family therapists; temporary license

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or registration

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E. Beginning January 1, 2018, a licensed marriage and family therapist who engages in the diagnosis of individuals shall furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that he has completed the standard training in the professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and a minimum of six credit hours in diagnostic psychopathology, where students are taught to systematically collect and analyze data based on one or both of the two standard diagnostic systems employed, International Classification of Diseases, current revision, or the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, current edition. However, licensed marriage and family therapists who have satisfied all other criteria for licensure as required by the board shall be allowed to diagnose individuals upon demonstration of competency through continuing education or other measures as defined by the board.

F. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any person licensed under the provisions of this Chapter to assess, diagnose, or provide treatment to any individual suffering from a serious mental illness, as defined by R.S. 37:1103, when medication may be indicated, except when a licensed marriage and family therapist, in accordance with best practices, consults and collaborates with a practitioner who holds a license or permit with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing who is certified as a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____