

HOUSE BILL 1849

By Jernigan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,
Chapter 22, relative to clinical pastoral therapists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-203, is amended by deleting subdivisions (3)-(5) and substituting the following:

(3) Has met the educational standards set by the board, which shall include:

(A) The completion of a course of studies consisting of a minimum of sixty (60) graduate semester hours in a curriculum approved by the board, of which a minimum of nine (9) graduate semester hours must relate specifically to the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, and the awarding of a master's or doctoral degree from a recognized educational institution; and

(B) The completion of a supervised clinical experience within the academic degree program as either a practicum or internship that includes experience in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of the emotional, behavioral, or relational distress and dysfunction described in the American Psychiatric Association's most current version of The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The experience required by this subdivision (3)(B) shall be conducted under the supervision of an approved supervisor;

(4) Has provided a minimum of one thousand four hundred (1,400) hours of pastoral therapy with individuals, couples, families, or groups while receiving a minimum of two hundred seventy (270) hours of supervision of such therapy under board-approved supervision; and

(5) Has passed examinations as approved by the board.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 22, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The board is authorized to issue a temporary license to a clinical pastoral therapist applicant who has completed the academic course work and supervised clinical experience for the license sought; provided, that in order to retain the temporary license, the applicant must take the written examination required by the board the first time it is scheduled following issuance of the temporary license. The applicant must successfully pass the exam within two (2) years following issuance of the temporary license.

(b) A temporary license obtained pursuant to this section authorizes the applicant to engage in the practice of clinical pastoral therapy under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

(c) In order to receive a temporary license, the applicant must submit to the board the following:

- (1) A completed application for a temporary license;
- (2) Satisfactory evidence of an agreement with an approved supervisor;

and

- (3) All required fees.

(d) A temporary license shall be nonrenewable and shall be valid for a period of not more than three (3) years. Within such three-year period, the applicant shall submit to the board an application for the regular license and shall present supporting documentation demonstrating the satisfactory completion of the required supervised clinical experience. The board shall then grant or deny the application for the regular license, based on satisfactory completion of all requirements for licensure. If the board approves or denies the application for the regular license or if the board revokes the temporary license for any reason, then the temporary license shall cease to be valid and shall be returned to the board.

(e) The holder of a temporary license as a clinical pastoral therapist shall not represent himself or herself to be a licensed clinical pastoral therapist. The holder of a temporary license as a clinical pastoral therapist may only represent himself or herself to be a "pastoral therapy intern", a "pastoral therapy trainee", or such other title designation that clearly reflects trainee status and temporary licensure.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.