

CHAPTER 252 (HB 290)

AN ACT relating to certified professional counselors.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 335.515 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The board shall administer and enforce the provisions of KRS 335.500 to 335.599 and shall evaluate the qualifications of applicants for certification.
- (2) The board may issue subpoenas, examine witnesses, pay appropriate witness fees, administer oaths, and investigate allegations of practices violating the provisions of KRS 335.500 to 335.599.
- (3) The board shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A as necessary to carry out and enforce the provisions of KRS 335.500 to 335.599, including the establishment of fees.
- (4) The board may conduct hearings pursuant to KRS Chapter 13B and keep records and minutes necessary to carry out the function of KRS 335.500 to 335.599.
- (5) The board may issue certificates to qualified candidates.
- (6) The board may renew certificates and may require up to ten (10) continuing education hours as a condition for renewal each year.
- (7) The board may suspend or revoke certificates, impose supervisory or probationary conditions upon certificate holders, impose administrative disciplinary fines, issue written reprimands and admonishments, or perform any combination thereof.
- (8) The board may seek injunctive relief in Franklin Circuit Court to enjoin violation of KRS 335.505(1).
- (9) The board may grant retired status or inactive status to a certificate holder under conditions set out in administrative regulations promulgated by the board.
- (10) The board may employ persons as necessary to carry on its work and shall define those person's duties and fix their compensation.
- (11) The board shall promulgate by administrative regulation a code of ethics for and standards of practice of certified professional counselors.
- (12) The board may enter into reciprocal agreements with certified professional counseling boards ***or licensed professional counseling boards*** ~~in other states with certification qualifications and requirements as high as Kentucky's~~.

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 335.500 TO 335.599 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) ***The board shall certify an applicant for endorsement who:***
 - (a) ***Has received a master's, specialist, or doctoral degree in counseling or a related field from a regionally accredited institution with graduate coursework in the following:***
 1. ***The helping relationship, including counseling theory and practice;***
 2. ***Human growth and development;***
 3. ***Lifestyle and career development;***

4. *Group dynamics, process, counseling, and consulting;*
 5. *Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals;*
 6. *Social and cultural foundations, including multicultural issues;*
 7. *Principles of etiology, diagnosis, treatment planning, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and dysfunctional behavior;*
 8. *Research and evaluation; and*
 9. *Professional orientation and ethics;*
- (b) *Holds an active valid license or certificate from another state to practice as a professional counselor;*
- (c) *Is in good standing with the certifying or licensing board of that state;*
- (d) *Is of good moral character;*
- (e) *Has paid the application fee to the board; and*
- (f) *Has provided the board with evidence of a minimum of three (3) years experience as a certified or licensed professional counselor.*
- (2) *The applicant shall be exempt from:*
- (a) *The required hours of supervised experience in the practice of counseling set out in KRS 335.525(1)(e); and*
 - (b) *The examination requirement set out in KRS 335.525(1)(f).*

Section 3. KRS 335.525 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The board shall issue a "professional counselor" certificate to an applicant who:
- (a) Has paid the application fee and the appropriate examination fee to the board;
 - (b) Is of good moral character;
 - (c) Has received a master's, *specialist*, or doctoral degree in counseling *or a related field* from a regionally-accredited institution;
 - (d) Has completed a minimum of sixty (60) graduate semester hours in the following:
 1. The helping relationship, including counseling theory and practice;
 2. Human growth and development;
 3. Lifestyle and career development;
 4. Group dynamics, process, counseling, and consulting;
 5. Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals;
 6. Social and cultural foundations, including multicultural issues;
 7. Principles of etiology, diagnosis, treatment planning, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and dysfunctional behavior;
 8. Research and evaluation; and
 9. Professional orientation and ethics;

- (e) Has completed a minimum of three thousand (3,000) hours of experience in the practice of counseling, two thousand (2,000) hours of which must have been obtained since obtaining the master's degree and must be under approved supervision. The experience shall have been performed under the general supervision of an approved supervisor and shall include, but not be limited to, a minimum of one thousand two hundred (1,200) hours of direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups and a minimum of one hundred (100) hours of individual, face-to-face weekly clinical supervision with an approved supervisor. Up to one thousand (1,000) hours of the supervised experience may be obtained from a supervised practicum or internship. After January 1, 1998, all previously uncertified applicants shall complete an organized practicum or internship consisting of at least four hundred (400) hours; and
 - (f) Has achieved passing scores on all portions of the examinations required by the board.
- (2) The application fee for certification and the examination fee shall be established pursuant to administrative regulation promulgated by the board.

Approved March 31, 2000