



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	April 10, 2026
<b>TO</b>	California Board of Behavioral Sciences
<b>FROM</b>	Rosanne Helms, Legislative Manager
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Proposed Amendments to AB 1598

### Background

The Board is sponsoring AB 1598 this year. This proposal represents the first step in restructuring and modernizing the Board’s licensing process. Significant amendments are as follows:

- Removes the requirement for associates to attempt the California Law and Ethics Exam each year in order to renew their registration.
- Requires the California Law and Ethics Exam to be passed no more than seven years prior to application for an initial license.
- Increases the amount of time supervised experience hours remain valid from six to seven years.
- Increases the maximum number of associate registration renewals from five to six, allowing a total of seven years of registration before a new number is required.
- Allows associates with a subsequent registration number to request a one-time, two-year hardship extension to work in one private practice setting with their subsequent registration number.
- Modernizes the exemption language for faith-based counseling by clarifying the criteria for when faith-based counseling is exempt from licensure.

The Board approved these proposed amendments at its August 22, 2025 meeting.

### Amendments Needed

Amendments are needed to BPC §§4980.01 (LMFTs), 4996.13 (LCSWs), and 4999.22 (LPCCs) based on stakeholder concerns raised by representatives of the medical and psychology professions. Their concerns relate to an unintended consequence created by the proposed language in these sections.

These statutes outline practice exemptions for other license types, including pastoral counseling exemptions. The pastoral counseling exemptions needed to be separated out from the other practice exemptions in order to further clarify them, which was the goal of the amendment. Because each section has historically been structured somewhat differently, staff attempted to use this amendment opportunity to improve clarity and create more consistency across the Board's licensure acts. The LCSW statute served as the template, and in the process, language restricting the use of the term "psychosocial" by other professions was expanded to also restrict the use of the term "psychotherapy."

However, the Medical Board and the Board of Psychology correctly noted that both physicians and psychologists are authorized under their scopes of practice to perform psychotherapy and related activities. As a result, the terms "psychosocial" and "psychotherapy" must be removed from the prohibitions in order to avoid unintentionally restricting practices that these professions are lawfully permitted to perform.

Additionally, the LMFT practice act is structured differently from the LCSW and LPCC statutes. Some of the LMFT exemptions for other professions appear in [§4980](#) rather than §4980.01, making a direct alignment with LCSW law impractical without a major restructuring that is not necessary at this time. LPCC law is more closely aligned with the LCSW act but still contains some structural differences. Therefore, staff reverted the LMFT exemption language to more closely reflect its original format, and made minor adjustments to the LPCC provisions to ensure important allowances were preserved.

**Attachment A** shows the proposed amendments in red text.

### **Recommendation**

Conduct an open discussion on the proposed amendments shown in red text in **Attachment A**. Direct staff to make any discussed changes, and any nonsubstantive changes, and bring to the Board for approval as an amendment to AB 1598.

### **Attachment**

**Attachment A:** Proposed AB 1598 Amendments

**Attachment A**  
**Proposed AB 1598 Amendments**  
**Note: Proposed Amendments Shown in Red Text**

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2026  
california legislature—2025–26 regular session

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1598**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk-Silva**

January 16, 2026

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An act to amend Sections 4980.01, 4980.397, 4980.399, 4980.40, 4980.41, 4980.43, 4980.50, 4984.01, 4984.7, 4984.72, 4989.20, 4989.68, 4992.05, 4992.09, 4992.1, 4996.1, 4996.3, 4996.4, 4996.13, 4996.23, 4996.28, 4999.22, 4999.46, 4999.50, 4999.52, 4999.53, 4999.55, 4999.64, 4999.100, and 4999.120 of, and to repeal Sections 4980.398, 4992.07, and 4999.46.1 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

**legislative counsel's digest**

AB 1598, as amended, Quirk-Silva. Behavioral sciences.

Existing law establishes the Board of Behavioral Sciences within the Department of Consumer Affairs and requires the board to regulate licensees and registrants under the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act (LMFTA), the Educational Psychologist Practice Act (EPPA), the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act (CSWPA), and the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act (LPCCA). Existing law makes a violation of those acts a crime.

The LMFTA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA each contain varying provisions limiting their application to the practice of certain medical and other behavioral science professionals, attorneys, and certain religious personnel, including priests, rabbis, and ministers of the gospel of any religious denomination.

This bill would revise and recast those provisions to make them consistent across those 3 acts. Specifically, the bill would provide that

LMFTA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA do not prevent qualified members of other professional groups, including those referenced above, from doing work of a psychosocial nature consistent with the standards, ethics, and scope of practice of their respective professions. The bill would prohibit those other professionals from stating or implying that they are licensed or registered under the LMFTA, the CSWPA, or the LPCCA, as specified. The bill would exempt a religious official of any denomination, including those specified above and imams, when providing faith-based counseling services as part of their regular professional duties for an established and legally recognizable faith-based entity if certain criteria are met.

Existing law establishes examination and experiential requirements under the LMFTA, the EPPA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA to qualify for licensure or registration under those acts, and requires an applicant for licensure or registration to have passed certain examinations or obtain specified experience within a certain timeline for it to be accepted by the board. In this regard, existing law generally requires the applicant to gain the required experience no more than 6 years before the board receives the application. For licensed educational psychologists, the EPPA authorizes the board to accept a passing score on a written examination administered by the board for a period of ~~6~~7 years from the date the examination was taken. Under the LMFTA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA, registrants and applicants for licensure, registration, or a subsequent registration number are required to pass a California law and ethics examination. The LMFTA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA require an applicant for licensure to pass a clinical examination within

7 years from the initial attempt, unless the applicant obtains a passing score on the current version of the California law and ethics examination.

This bill, instead, would require applicants for licensure under the LMFTA, the EPPA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA, to obtain the relevant experience and to pass the relevant examination within 7 years preceding the date on which the board receives the application. The bill would require those applicants and registrants under the LMFTA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA who submit applications to the board on and after January 1, 2030, to have passed the California law and ethics examination no more than 7 years before the board receives the application, as specified.

Existing law authorizes an associate marriage and family therapist registration, an associate clinical social worker registration, or an associate professional clinical counselor registration to be renewed a

maximum of 5 times and prohibits a registration from being renewed beyond 6 years from the last day of the month of issuance. Existing law authorizes an applicant to apply for a subsequent registration number when no renewals are possible if certain requirements are met. Existing law prohibits an applicant who is issued a subsequent associate registration number from being employed or volunteering in a private practice.

This bill would increase the maximum number of renewals for those registrations to 6 and would extend the renewal deadline to 7 years from the last day of the month of issuance. The bill would authorize an applicant applying for or holding a subsequent associate registration number to request a 2-year hardship extension of the subsequent associate registration number to allow them to be employed or volunteer at one private practice or professional *corporation* employer, subject to specified conditions and requirements, including signing an application under penalty of perjury. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law establishes a \$20 fee for rescoring a written examination under the LMFTA, the EPPA, the CSWPA, and the LPCCA.

This bill would delete that fee.

This bill would delete obsolete provisions and make other technical and nonsubstantive changes.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4980.01 of the Business and Professions

2 Code is amended to read:

3 4980.01. ~~(a) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent qualified~~  
4 ~~members of other professional groups from doing work of a~~  
5 ~~psychosocial nature consistent with the standards, ethics, and scope~~  
6 ~~of practice of their respective professions. However, they these~~  
7 ~~qualified members shall not hold themselves out to the public by~~  
8 ~~any title or description of services incorporating the words~~

~~1 psychosocial, psychotherapy, or marriage and family therapist,  
2 “psychosocial,” “psychotherapy,” or “marriage and family  
3 therapist,” and shall not state or imply that they are licensed or  
4 registered to practice marriage and family therapy. These qualified  
5 members of other professional groups include, but are not limited  
6 to, the following:  
7 (1) A physician and surgeon certified pursuant to Chapter 5  
8 (commencing with Section 2000).  
9 (2) A registered nurse licensed pursuant to Chapter 6  
10 (commencing with Section 2700).  
11 (3) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6  
12 (commencing with Section 2900).  
13 (4) Members of the State Bar.  
14 (5) Educational psychologists licensed pursuant to Chapter 13.5  
15 (commencing with Section 4989.10).  
16 (6) Clinical social workers licensed pursuant to Chapter 14  
17 (commencing with Section 4991).  
18 (7) Licensed professional clinical counselors pursuant to Chapter  
19 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10).  
20~~

(a) This chapter shall not be construed to constrict, limit, or  
21 withdraw the Medical Practice Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with  
22 Section 2000)), the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act (Chapter  
23 14 (commencing with Section 4991)), the Nursing Practice Act  
24 (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700)), the Licensed  
25 Professional Clinical Counselor Act (Chapter 16 (commencing  
26 with Section 4999.10)), or the Psychology Licensing Law (Chapter  
27 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900)).

(b) This chapter shall not apply to any person who is admitted to practice law in the state, or a physician and surgeon who provides counseling services as part of their professional practice.

(c) This chapter shall not apply to any priest, rabbi, imam, or  
28 minister of the gospel, or other religious official of any  
29 denomination when providing faith-based counseling services as  
30 part of their regular professional duties for an established and  
31 legally recognizable faith-based entity, such as a church,  
32 synagogue, mosque, or other recognized religious organization,  
33 provided that all of the following criteria are met.  
34

- 35 (1) The services are performed solely under the direct auspices  
36 of that faith-based entity.
- 37 (2) A separate fee, beyond their customary compensation from  
38 that faith-based entity, is not charged or received.
- 39 (3) They do not hold themselves out to the public by any title  
40 or description of services incorporating the words ~~psychosocial,~~

1 ~~psychotherapy, or marriage and family therapist,~~ “*psychosocial,*”  
2 “*psychotherapy,*” or “*marriage and family therapist,*” and shall  
3 not state or imply that they are licensed or registered to practice  
4 marriage and family therapy.

5 (4) The services provided are limited to counseling services  
6 provided in a religious or spiritual context and do not involve the  
7 diagnosis or treatment of mental health disorders.

8 (d) This chapter shall not apply to an unlicensed or unregistered  
9 employee or volunteer working in a governmental entity, a school,  
10 a college, a university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and  
11 charitable if both of the following apply:

12 (1) The work of the employee or volunteer is performed under  
13 the oversight and direction of the entity.

14 (2) (A) On and after July 1, 2020, the employee or volunteer  
15 provides a client, prior to initiating psychotherapy services or as  
16 soon as practicably possible thereafter, a notice written in at least  
17 12-point type that is in substantially the following form:

18  
19 NOTICE TO CLIENTS

20 The (name of office or unit) of the (name of agency) receives  
21 and responds to complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapy  
22 by any unlicensed or unregistered practitioner providing services  
23 at (name of agency). To file a complaint, contact (telephone  
24 number, email address, internet website, or mailing address of  
25 agency).

26 The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to  
27 complaints regarding services provided by individuals licensed  
28 and registered by the board. If you have a complaint and are unsure  
29 if your practitioner is licensed or registered, please contact the  
30 Board of Behavioral Sciences at 916-574-7830 for assistance or  
31 utilize the board’s online license verification feature by visiting  
32 [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov).

33  
34 (B) The delivery of the notice described in subparagraph (A)  
35 to the client shall be documented.

36 (e) A marriage and family therapist licensed under this chapter  
37 is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of  
38 Section 805, and thus is a health care provider subject to the  
39 provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that  
40 section.

1 (f) Notwithstanding subdivisions (c) and (d), all persons  
2 registered as associates or licensed under this chapter shall not be  
3 exempt from this chapter or the jurisdiction of the board.

4 SEC. 2. Section 4980.397 of the Business and Professions  
5 Code is amended to read:

6 4980.397. (a) A registrant or an applicant for licensure as a  
7 marriage and family therapist shall pass the following two  
8 examinations as prescribed by the board:

- 9 (1) A California law and ethics examination.
- 10 (2) A clinical examination administered by the board or by a  
11 public or private organization, as specified by the board in  
12 regulations.

13 (b) The board shall grant eligibility to take the California law  
14 and ethics examination upon approval of an application for  
15 registration or an application for licensure, and submission of the  
16 required application and fee.

17 (c) The board may grant an applicant for licensure eligibility to  
18 take the clinical examination only upon meeting all of the following  
19 requirements:

- 20 (1) Completion of all required supervised work experience.
- 21 (2) Completion of all education requirements.
- 22 (3) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.

23 SEC. 3. Section 4980.398 of the Business and Professions  
24 Code is repealed.

25 SEC. 4. Section 4980.399 of the Business and Professions  
26 Code is amended to read:

27 4980.399. (a) Each applicant and registrant shall obtain a  
28 passing score on a board-administered California law and ethics  
29 examination in order to qualify for licensure. The California law  
30 and ethics examination shall be passed no more than seven years  
31 prior to the board's receipt of the application for initial license  
32 issuance.

33 (b) If an applicant fails the California law and ethics  
34 examination, they may retake the examination after any waiting  
35 period specified in regulation, upon payment of the required fees  
36 and submission of a reexamination application.

37 (c) The board shall not issue a subsequent associate registration  
38 number unless the applicant has passed the California law and  
39 ethics examination no more than seven years prior to the board's

1 receipt of the application for the subsequent associate registration  
2 number.

3 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the seven-year  
4 age limit on the California law and ethics examination shall not  
5 apply to any application for initial license issuance or subsequent  
6 associate registration number received by the board on or before  
7 January 1, 2030.

8 (e) A registrant shall complete a minimum of three hours of  
9 continuing education on the subject of California law and ethics  
10 during each renewal period to be eligible to renew their registration.  
11 The coursework shall be obtained from a board-accepted provider  
12 of continuing education, as specified in Section 4980.54.

13 SEC. 5. Section 4980.40 of the Business and Professions Code  
14 is amended to read:

15 4980.40. An applicant for licensure shall satisfy all of the  
16 following qualifications:

17 (a) Meet the educational requirements of Section 4980.36 or  
18 both Sections 4980.37 and 4980.41, as applicable.

19 (b) Be at least 18 years of age.

20 (c) Have at least two years of supervised experience as specified  
21 in this chapter and its corresponding regulations.

22 (d) Successfully pass a California law and ethics examination  
23 and a clinical examination, as specified in Section 4980.397. Each  
24 examination shall be passed no more than seven years prior to the  
25 board's receipt of the application for initial license issuance.

26 (e) Not be subject to denial of licensure under Section 480. The  
27 board shall not issue a registration or license to any person who  
28 has been convicted of a crime in this or another state or in a  
29 territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children  
30 or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal  
31 Code or the equivalent in another state or territory, in accordance  
32 with Section 480.

33 SEC. 6. Section 4980.41 of the Business and Professions Code  
34 is amended to read:

35 4980.41. (a) An applicant for licensure whose education  
36 qualifies them under Section 4980.37 shall complete the following  
37 coursework or training in order to be eligible to sit for the clinical  
38 examination as specified in Section 4980.397:

39 (1) A two semester or three quarter unit course in California  
40 law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists,

1 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of  
2 study:

3 (A) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory,  
4 and decisional laws that delineate the profession's scope of  
5 practice.

6 (B) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations  
7 involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family  
8 therapy, including family law.

9 (C) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health  
10 profession.

11 (D) The psychotherapist-patient privilege, confidentiality, the  
12 patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors  
13 with and without parental consent.

14 (E) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between  
15 a practitioner's sense of self and human values and their  
16 professional behavior and ethics.

17 This course may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72  
18 quarter unit requirements contained in Section 4980.37.

19 (2) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework  
20 in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28  
21 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

22 (3) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework  
23 in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations  
24 promulgated thereunder. When coursework in a master's or  
25 doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it  
26 shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit  
27 requirement contained in Section 4980.37.

28 (4) For persons who began graduate study on or after January  
29 1, 1986, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall  
30 include specific instruction in alcoholism and other chemical  
31 substance dependency as specified by regulation. When coursework  
32 in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this  
33 requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or  
34 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section 4980.37.  
35 Coursework required under this paragraph may be satisfactory if  
36 taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for  
37 licensure or in a separate course. The applicant may satisfy this  
38 requirement by successfully completing this coursework from a  
39 master's or doctoral degree program at an accredited or approved  
40 institution, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 4980.37, or

1 from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as  
2 described in Section 4980.54.

3 (5) For persons who began graduate study during the period  
4 commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31,  
5 2003, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall  
6 include coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment,  
7 detection, and intervention. For persons who began graduate study  
8 on or after January 1, 2004, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying  
9 for licensure shall include a minimum of 15 contact hours of  
10 coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and  
11 intervention strategies, including knowledge of community  
12 resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics.  
13 Coursework required under this paragraph may be satisfactory if  
14 taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for  
15 licensure or in a separate course. The applicant may satisfy this  
16 requirement by successfully completing this coursework from a  
17 master's or doctoral degree program at an accredited or approved  
18 institution, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 4980.37, or  
19 from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as  
20 described in Section 4980.54.

21 (6) For persons who began graduate study on or after January  
22 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester  
23 or three quarter unit survey course in psychological testing. When  
24 coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired  
25 to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48  
26 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section 4980.37.

27 (7) For persons who began graduate study on or after January  
28 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester  
29 or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology. When  
30 coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired  
31 to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48  
32 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section 4980.37.

33 (b) The requirements added by paragraphs (6) and (7) of  
34 subdivision (a) are intended to improve the educational  
35 qualifications for licensure in order to better prepare future  
36 licentiates for practice and are not intended in any way to expand  
37 or restrict the scope of practice for licensed marriage and family  
38 therapists.

39 SEC. 7. Section 4980.43 of the Business and Professions Code  
40 is amended to read:

1 4980.43. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), all  
2 applicants shall have an active associate registration with the board  
3 in order to gain postdegree hours of supervised experience.

4 (b) (1) Postdegree hours of experience gained before the  
5 issuance of an associate registration shall be credited toward  
6 licensure if all of the following apply:

7 (A) The registration applicant applies for the associate  
8 registration and the board receives the application within 90 days  
9 of the granting of the qualifying master's degree or doctoral degree.

10 (B) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January  
11 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to  
12 the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours,  
13 requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall  
14 provide the board with a copy of that completed State of California  
15 "Request for Live Scan Service" form with the application for  
16 licensure.

17 (C) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.

18 (2) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private  
19 practice or a professional corporation until the applicant has been  
20 issued an associate registration by the board.

21 (c) Supervised experience that is obtained for purposes of  
22 qualifying for licensure shall be related to the practice of marriage  
23 and family therapy and comply with the following:

24 (1) A minimum of 3,000 hours completed during a period of at  
25 least 104 weeks.

26 (2) A maximum of 40 hours in any seven consecutive days.

27 (3) A minimum of 1,700 hours obtained after the qualifying  
28 master's or doctoral degree was awarded.

29 (4) A maximum of 1,300 hours obtained prior to the award date  
30 of the qualifying master's or doctoral degree.

31 (5) A maximum of 750 hours of counseling and direct supervisor  
32 contact prior to the award date of the qualifying master's or  
33 doctoral degree.

34 (6) Hours of experience shall not be gained prior to completing  
35 either 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of graduate instruction.

36 (7) Hours of experience shall not have been gained more than  
37 seven years prior to the date the application for licensure was  
38 received by the board, except that up to 500 hours of clinical  
39 experience gained in the supervised practicum required by  
40 subdivision (c) of Section 4980.37 and subparagraph (B) of

1 paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36 shall be exempt  
2 from this seven-year requirement.

3 (8) A minimum of 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with  
4 individuals, groups, couples, or families, that includes not less than  
5 500 total hours of experience in diagnosing and treating couples,  
6 families, and children.

7 (9) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision  
8 of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally  
9 related mental health services that are consistent with the scope  
10 of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section  
11 4989.14.

12 (10) A maximum of 1,250 hours of nonclinical practice,  
13 consisting of direct supervisor contact, administering and  
14 evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing  
15 progress or process notes, client-centered advocacy, and  
16 workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly  
17 related to marriage and family therapy that have been approved  
18 by the applicant's supervisor.

19 (11) It is anticipated and encouraged that hours of experience  
20 will include working with elders and dependent adults who have  
21 physical or mental limitations that restrict their ability to carry out  
22 normal activities or protect their rights.

23 This subdivision shall only apply to hours gained on and after  
24 January 1, 2010.

25 SEC. 8. Section 4980.50 of the Business and Professions Code  
26 is amended to read:

27 4980.50. (a) Every applicant who meets the educational and  
28 experience requirements and applies for a license as a marriage  
29 and family therapist shall be examined by the board. The  
30 examinations shall be as set forth in Section 4980.397 and as  
31 specified in regulation. The examinations shall be given at least  
32 twice a year at a time and place and under supervision as the board  
33 may determine. The board shall examine the candidate with regard  
34 to the candidate's knowledge and professional skills and judgment  
35 in the utilization of appropriate techniques and methods.

36 (b) The board shall not deny any applicant who has submitted  
37 a complete application for examination, admission to the licensure  
38 examinations required by this section if the applicant meets the  
39 educational and experience requirements of this chapter, and has

1 not committed any acts or engaged in any conduct that would  
2 constitute grounds to deny licensure.

3 (c) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application  
4 for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination,  
5 nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant’s clinical  
6 examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint  
7 alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny  
8 licensure.

9 (d) If an applicant for examination who has passed the California  
10 law and ethics examination is the subject of a complaint or is under  
11 board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven to be true,  
12 would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure, the board  
13 shall permit the applicant to take the clinical examination for  
14 licensure, but may notify the applicant that licensure will not be  
15 granted pending completion of the investigation.

16 (e) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any  
17 applicant who has previously failed either the California law and  
18 ethics examination or the clinical examination permission to retake  
19 either examination pending completion of the investigation of any  
20 complaints against the applicant. Nothing in this section shall  
21 prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any  
22 examination or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when  
23 an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the  
24 applicant pursuant to Sections 11503 and 11504 of the Government  
25 Code, respectively, or the applicant has been denied in accordance  
26 with subdivision (b) of Section 485.

27 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may  
28 destroy all examination materials two years following the date of  
29 an examination.

30 (g) The clinical examination shall be passed no more than seven  
31 years prior to the board’s receipt of the application for initial  
32 license issuance.

33 (h) An applicant for licensure who has qualified pursuant to this  
34 chapter shall be issued a license as a marriage and family therapist  
35 in the form that the board deems appropriate.

36 SEC. 9. Section 4984.01 of the Business and Professions Code  
37 is amended to read:

38 4984.01. (a) The associate marriage and family therapist  
39 registration shall expire one year from the last day of the month  
40 in which it was issued.

1 (b) To renew the registration, subject to the additional limitations  
2 imposed by subdivision (d), the registrant shall, on or before the  
3 expiration date of the registration, complete all of the following  
4 actions:

5 (1) Apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the board.

6 (2) Pay a renewal fee prescribed by the board.

7 (3) Notify the board whether they have been convicted, as  
8 defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, and whether  
9 any disciplinary action has been taken against them by a regulatory  
10 or licensing board in this or any other state subsequent to the last  
11 renewal of the registration.

12 (4) Certify under penalty of perjury their compliance with the  
13 continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4980.54.

14 (c) An expired registration may be renewed by completing all  
15 of the actions described in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
16 subdivision (b).

17 (d) The registration may be renewed a maximum of six times.  
18 No registration shall be renewed or reinstated beyond seven years  
19 from the last day of the month during which it was issued,  
20 regardless of whether it has been revoked. When no further  
21 renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a  
22 subsequent associate registration number if the applicant meets  
23 the educational requirements for a subsequent associate registration  
24 number and has passed the California law and ethics examination  
25 no more than seven years prior to the board's receipt of the  
26 application for the subsequent associate registration number.

27 (e) An applicant who is issued a subsequent associate  
28 registration number pursuant to subdivision (d) shall not be  
29 employed or volunteer in a private practice.

30 (f) Notwithstanding subdivision (e), an applicant applying for  
31 or who currently holds a subsequent associate registration number  
32 may request that the board grant them a one-time,  
33 two-consecutive-year hardship extension to allow them to be  
34 employed or volunteer at one private practice or professional  
35 corporation employer with their subsequent associate registration  
36 ~~number.~~ *number in accordance with the following:*

37 (1) An associate shall not be issued more than one extension.

38 (2) The extension is only valid for the one private practice or  
39 professional corporation employer for which it is requested.

- 1 (3) Work for the employer shall not commence or continue until
- 2 the extension is approved by the board.
- 3 (4) The application shall be jointly signed under penalty of
- 4 perjury and dated by the associate, the supervisor, and, if the
- 5 supervisor is not employed by the supervisee’s employer or is a
- 6 volunteer, a representative of the employer.
- 7 (5) The board shall grant the extension provided that the
- 8 application is signed, all information required is provided, and
- 9 good cause is demonstrated. The application shall contain all of
- 10 the following:
  - 11 (A) The date the extension is needed to commence or continue
  - 12 work for the employer.
  - 13 (B) The name of the employer where the associate will be
  - 14 gaining hours.
  - 15 (C) An attestation that the employer is a private practice or a
  - 16 professional corporation.
  - 17 (D) The name, license type, and license number of the current
  - 18 supervisor.
  - 19 (E) A showing of good cause for the applicant being unable to
  - 20 complete the licensure process within seven years. Good cause
  - 21 may include, but is not limited to, extended medical leave, family
  - 22 caregiving responsibilities, difficulties finding employment, or
  - 23 circumstances beyond the applicant’s control.
  - 24 (F) A description of the plan for the associate to gain the needed
  - 25 hours toward licensure during the two-year extension period.
- 26 SEC. 10. Section 4984.7 of the Business and Professions Code
- 27 is amended to read:
  - 28 4984.7. The board shall assess the following fees relating to
  - 29 the licensure of marriage and family therapists:
    - 30 (a) The application fee for an associate registration shall be one
    - 31 hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to
    - 32 set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred
    - 33 dollars (\$300).
    - 34 (b) The annual renewal fee for an associate registration shall be
    - 35 one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations
    - 36 to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred
    - 37 dollars (\$300).
    - 38 (c) The fee for the application for licensure shall be two hundred
    - 39 fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the

1 fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars  
2 (\$500).

3 (d) (1) (A) The fee for the board-administered clinical  
4 examination, if the board chooses to adopt this examination in  
5 regulations, shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board  
6 may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a  
7 maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500). If the board chooses to  
8 adopt an examination administered by a public or private  
9 organization, as specified by the board in regulations, then the  
10 examination fee shall be determined by, and paid directly to, that  
11 organization.

12 (B) The fee for the California law and ethics examination shall  
13 be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt  
14 regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of  
15 three hundred dollars (\$300).

16 (2) An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, after  
17 having been scheduled to take the examination, shall forfeit the  
18 examination fee.

19 (3) The amount of the examination fees shall be based on the  
20 actual cost to the board of developing, purchasing, and grading  
21 each examination and the actual cost to the board of administering  
22 each examination. The examination fees shall be adjusted  
23 periodically by regulation to reflect the actual costs incurred by  
24 the board.

25 (e) The fee for the issuance of an initial license shall be two  
26 hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set  
27 the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred  
28 dollars (\$400).

29 (f) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred  
30 dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
31 a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

32 (g) The renewal delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for  
33 license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire is  
34 subject to the delinquency fee.

35 (h) The fee for issuance of a replacement registration, license,  
36 or certificate shall be twenty dollars (\$20).

37 (i) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing  
38 shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).

39 (j) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars  
40 (\$40).

1 SEC. 11. Section 4984.72 of the Business and Professions  
 2 Code is amended to read:  
 3 4984.72. An applicant who fails the clinical examination may,  
 4 within one year from the notification date of that failure, retake  
 5 the examination as regularly scheduled without further application  
 6 upon payment of the fee for the examination. Thereafter, the  
 7 applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until they  
 8 file a new application, meet all requirements in effect on the date  
 9 of application, and pay all required fees.

10 SEC. 12. Section 4989.20 of the Business and Professions  
 11 Code is amended to read:

12 4989.20. (a) The board may issue a license as an educational  
 13 psychologist if the applicant satisfies, with proof satisfactory to  
 14 the board, the following requirements:

15 (1) Possession of, at minimum, a master’s degree in psychology,  
 16 educational psychology, school psychology, counseling and  
 17 guidance, or a degree deemed equivalent by the board. This degree  
 18 shall be obtained from an educational institution approved by the  
 19 board according to the regulations adopted under this chapter.

20 (2) Attainment of 18 years of age.

21 (3) Is not subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480.

22 (4) Successful completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter  
 23 units of postgraduate study in pupil personnel services.

24 (5) Two school terms of full-time, or the equivalent to full-time,  
 25 experience as a licensed or credentialed school psychologist in the  
 26 public schools or in another school setting as specified in  
 27 regulations. The experience shall be gained over a period of at  
 28 least two school terms. The applicant shall not be credited with  
 29 experience obtained more than seven years immediately preceding  
 30 the date on which the application for licensure was received by  
 31 the board.

32 (6) If the experience required by paragraph (5) was completed  
 33 while holding a California credential in a school located in  
 34 California, completion of one of the following:

35 (A) A minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised professional  
 36 experience in an accredited school psychology program.

37 (B) One school term of full-time, or the equivalent to full-time,  
 38 experience as a California credentialed school psychologist in the  
 39 California public schools, or in another school setting as specified  
 40 in regulations, obtained under the direction of a California-licensed

1 educational psychologist. The experience shall be gained over a  
2 period of at least one school term. The applicant shall not be  
3 credited with experience obtained more than seven years  
4 immediately preceding the date on which the application for  
5 licensure was received by the board.

6 (7) If the experience required by paragraph (5) was not  
7 completed while holding a California credential in a school located  
8 in California, completion of one of the following:

9 (A) A minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised professional  
10 experience gained in California in an accredited school psychology  
11 program, gained no more than seven years immediately preceding  
12 the date on which the application for licensure was received by  
13 the board.

14 (B) One school term of full-time, or the equivalent to full-time,  
15 experience as a California credentialed school psychologist in the  
16 California public schools, or in another school setting as specified  
17 in regulations, obtained under the direction of a California licensed  
18 educational psychologist. The experience shall be gained over a  
19 period of at least one school term. The applicant shall not be  
20 credited with experience obtained more than seven years  
21 immediately preceding the date on which the application for  
22 licensure was received by the board.

23 (8) Passage of the licensed educational psychologist written  
24 examination administered by the board. This examination shall be  
25 passed no more than seven years prior to the board's receipt of the  
26 application for initial license issuance.

27 (b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

28 (1) "Full time" means the days or hours of creditable service  
29 the employer requires to be performed by the employee in a school  
30 term under their collective bargaining agreement or employment  
31 agreement. It shall consist of a minimum of 175 days, or 1,050  
32 hours, per school term.

33 (2) "Equivalent to full time" means the days or hours of  
34 creditable service that a person who is employed on a part-time  
35 basis would be required to perform in a school term if they were  
36 employed full time in that part-time position.

37 (3) "School term" means a minimum period of 35 weeks  
38 beginning the first day and ending the last day creditable service  
39 is required to be performed by a member employed on a full-time  
40 basis, excluding any period that has been excluded pursuant to a

1 publicly available written contractual agreement. The school term  
2 shall also be the same for an individual who is not employed on a  
3 full-time basis who is performing the same duties as a member  
4 employed on a full-time basis.

5 SEC. 13. Section 4989.68 of the Business and Professions  
6 Code is amended to read:

7 4989.68. The board shall assess the following fees relating to  
8 the licensure of educational psychologists:

9 (a) The application fee for licensure shall be two hundred fifty  
10 dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
11 a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).

12 (b) The fee for issuance of the initial license shall be two  
13 hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set  
14 the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred  
15 dollars (\$400).

16 (c) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred  
17 dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
18 a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

19 (d) The delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for license  
20 renewal. A person who permits their license to expire shall be  
21 subject to the delinquency fee.

22 (e) The written examination fee shall be two hundred fifty  
23 dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
24 a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).  
25 An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, once having  
26 been scheduled, shall forfeit any examination fees they paid.

27 (f) The fee for issuance of a replacement registration, license,  
28 or certificate shall be twenty dollars (\$20).

29 (g) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing  
30 shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).

31 (h) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars  
32 (\$40).

33 SEC. 14. Section 4992.05 of the Business and Professions  
34 Code is amended to read:

35 4992.05. (a) A registrant or an applicant for licensure as a  
36 clinical social worker shall pass the following two examinations  
37 as prescribed by the board:

38 (1) A California law and ethics examination.

39 (2) A clinical examination.

1 (b) The board shall grant eligibility to take the California law  
2 and ethics examination upon approval of an application for  
3 registration or an application for licensure, and submission of the  
4 required application and fee.

5 (c) The board may grant an applicant for licensure eligibility to  
6 take the clinical examination only upon meeting all of the following  
7 requirements:

8 (1) Completion of all education requirements.

9 (2) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.

10 (3) Completion of all required supervised work experience.

11 SEC. 15. Section 4992.07 of the Business and Professions  
12 Code is repealed.

13 SEC. 16. Section 4992.09 of the Business and Professions  
14 Code is amended to read:

15 4992.09. (a) Each applicant and registrant shall obtain a  
16 passing score on a board-administered California law and ethics  
17 examination in order to qualify for licensure. The California law  
18 and ethics examination shall be passed no more than seven years  
19 prior to the board's receipt of the application for initial license  
20 issuance.

21 (b) If an applicant fails the California law and ethics  
22 examination, they may retake the examination after any waiting  
23 period as specified in regulation, upon payment of the required  
24 fees and submission of a reexamination application.

25 (c) The board shall not issue a subsequent associate registration  
26 number unless the applicant has passed the California law and  
27 ethics examination no more than seven years prior to the board's  
28 receipt of the application for the subsequent associate registration  
29 number.

30 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the seven-year  
31 age limit on the California law and ethics examination shall not  
32 apply to any application for initial license issuance or subsequent  
33 associate registration number received by the board on or before  
34 January 1, 2030.

35 (e) A registrant shall complete a minimum of three hours of  
36 continuing education on the subject of California law and ethics  
37 during each renewal period to be eligible to renew their registration.  
38 The coursework shall be obtained from a board-accepted provider  
39 of continuing education, as specified in Section 4996.22.

1 SEC. 17. Section 4992.1 of the Business and Professions Code  
2 is amended to read:

3 4992.1. (a) Only individuals who have the qualifications  
4 prescribed by the board under this chapter are eligible to take an  
5 examination under this chapter.

6 (b) Every applicant who is issued a clinical social worker license  
7 shall be examined by the board.

8 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may  
9 destroy all examination materials two years following the date of  
10 an examination.

11 (d) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application  
12 for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination,  
13 nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant’s clinical  
14 examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint  
15 alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny  
16 licensure.

17 (e) If an applicant for examination who has passed the California  
18 law and ethics examination is the subject of a complaint or is under  
19 board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven to be true,  
20 would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure, the board  
21 shall permit the applicant to take the clinical examination for  
22 licensure, but may notify the applicant that licensure will not be  
23 granted pending completion of the investigation.

24 (f) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any  
25 applicant who has previously failed either the California law and  
26 ethics examination or the clinical examination permission to retake  
27 either examination pending completion of the investigation of any  
28 complaint against the applicant. Nothing in this section shall  
29 prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any  
30 examination, or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when  
31 an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the  
32 applicant pursuant to Section 11503 or 11504 of the Government  
33 Code, or the applicant has been denied in accordance with  
34 subdivision (b) of Section 485.

35 (g) The clinical examination shall be passed no more than seven  
36 years prior to the board’s receipt of the application for initial  
37 license issuance.

38 SEC. 18. Section 4996.1 of the Business and Professions Code  
39 is amended to read:

1 4996.1. The board shall issue a clinical social worker license  
2 to each applicant who qualifies pursuant to this article and who  
3 successfully passes a California law and ethics examination and  
4 a clinical examination. Each examination shall be passed no more  
5 than seven years prior to the board's receipt of the application for  
6 initial license issuance.

7 SEC. 19. Section 4996.3 of the Business and Professions Code  
8 is amended to read:

9 4996.3. The board shall assess the following fees relating to  
10 the licensure of clinical social workers:

11 (a) The application fee for registration as an associate clinical  
12 social worker shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board  
13 may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a  
14 maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).

15 (b) The fee for annual renewal of an associate clinical social  
16 worker registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The  
17 board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up  
18 to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).

19 (c) The fee for application for licensure shall be two hundred  
20 fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the  
21 fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars  
22 (\$500).

23 (d) (1) (A) The fee for the board-administered clinical  
24 examination, if the board chooses to adopt this examination in  
25 regulations, shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board  
26 may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a  
27 maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).

28 (B) The fee for the California law and ethics examination shall  
29 be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt  
30 regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of  
31 three hundred dollars (\$300).

32 (2) An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, after  
33 having been scheduled to take the examination, shall forfeit the  
34 examination fees.

35 (3) The amount of the examination fees shall be based on the  
36 actual cost to the board of developing, purchasing, and grading  
37 each examination and the actual cost to the board of administering  
38 each examination. The written examination fees shall be adjusted  
39 periodically by regulation to reflect the actual costs incurred by  
40 the board.

1 (e) The fee for issuance of an initial license shall be two hundred  
 2 dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
 3 a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

4 (f) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred  
 5 dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
 6 a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

7 (g) The renewal delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for  
 8 license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire shall  
 9 be subject to the delinquency fee.

10 (h) The fee for issuance of a replacement registration, license,  
 11 or certificate shall be twenty dollars (\$20).

12 (i) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing  
 13 shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).

14 (j) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars  
 15 (\$40).

16 SEC. 20. Section 4996.4 of the Business and Professions Code  
 17 is amended to read:

18 4996.4. An applicant who fails the clinical examination may,  
 19 within one year from the notification date of failure, retake that  
 20 examination as regularly scheduled, without further application,  
 21 upon payment of the required examination fees. Thereafter, the  
 22 applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until they  
 23 file a new application, meet all current requirements, and pay all  
 24 required fees.

25 SEC. 21. Section 4996.13 of the Business and Professions  
 26 Code is amended to read:

27 4996.13. (a) Nothing in this article shall prevent qualified  
 28 members of other professional groups from doing work of a  
 29 psychosocial nature consistent with the standards, ethics, and scope  
 30 of practice of their respective professions. However, ~~they~~ *these*  
 31 *qualified members* shall not hold themselves out to the public by  
 32 any title or description of services incorporating the words  
 33 ~~psychosocial, psychotherapy, or clinical social worker,~~  
 34 ~~“psychosocial,” “psychotherapy,” or “clinical social worker,”~~  
 35 and shall not state or imply that they are licensed or registered to  
 36 practice clinical social work. These qualified members of other  
 37 professional groups include, but are not limited to, the following:

38 (1) A physician and surgeon certified pursuant to Chapter 5  
 39 (commencing with Section 2000).

1 (2) A registered nurse licensed pursuant to Chapter 6  
2 (commencing with Section 2700).

3 (3) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6  
4 (commencing with Section 2900).

5 (4) Members of the State Bar.

6 (5) Marriage and family therapists licensed pursuant to Chapter  
7 13 (commencing with Section 4980).

8 (6) Educational psychologists licensed pursuant to Chapter 13.5  
9 (commencing with Section 4989.10).

10 (7) Licensed professional clinical counselors pursuant to Chapter  
11 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10).

12 (b) This article shall not apply to any priest, rabbi, imam,  
13 minister of the gospel, or other religious official of any  
14 denomination when providing faith-based counseling services as  
15 part of their regular professional duties for an established and  
16 legally recognizable faith-based entity, such as a church,  
17 synagogue, mosque, or other recognized religious organization,  
18 provided that all of the following criteria are met:

19 (1) The services are performed solely under the direct auspices  
20 of that faith-based entity.

21 (2) A separate fee, beyond their customary compensation from  
22 that faith-based entity, is not charged or received.

23 (3) They do not hold themselves out to the public by any title  
24 or description of services incorporating the words ~~psychosocial,~~  
25 ~~psychotherapy, or clinical social worker,~~ “*psychosocial,*”  
26 *“psychotherapy,”* or *“clinical social worker,”* and shall not state  
27 or imply that they are licensed or registered to practice clinical  
28 social work.

29 (4) The services provided are limited to counseling services  
30 provided in a religious or spiritual context and do not involve the  
31 diagnosis or treatment of mental health disorders.

32 SEC. 22. Section 4996.23 of the Business and Professions  
33 Code is amended to read:

34 4996.23. (a) To qualify for licensure, each applicant shall  
35 complete 3,000 hours of post-master’s degree supervised  
36 experience related to the practice of clinical social work. Except  
37 as provided in subdivision (b), experience shall not be gained until  
38 the applicant is registered as an associate clinical social worker.

1 (b) Postdegree hours of experience gained before the issuance  
 2 of an associate registration shall be credited toward licensure if all  
 3 of the following apply:

4 (1) The registration applicant applies for the associate  
 5 registration and the board receives the application within 90 days  
 6 of the granting of the qualifying master’s or doctoral degree.

7 (2) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January  
 8 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to  
 9 the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours,  
 10 requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall  
 11 provide the board with a copy of that completed “State of  
 12 California Request for Live Scan Service” form with the  
 13 application for licensure.

14 (3) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.

15 (c) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private  
 16 practice or a professional corporation until the applicant has been  
 17 issued an associate registration by the board.

18 (d) The experience shall be as follows:

19 (1) (A) At least 1,700 hours shall be gained under the  
 20 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. The remaining  
 21 required supervised experience may be gained under the  
 22 supervision of a physician and surgeon who is certified in  
 23 psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology,  
 24 licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed marriage and  
 25 family therapist, psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6  
 26 (commencing with Section 2900), licensed educational  
 27 psychologist, or licensed clinical social worker.

28 (B) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision  
 29 of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally  
 30 related mental health services that are consistent with the scope  
 31 of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section  
 32 4989.14.

33 (2) A minimum of 2,000 hours in clinical psychosocial  
 34 diagnosis, assessment, and treatment, including psychotherapy or  
 35 counseling; however, at least 750 hours shall be face-to-face  
 36 individual or group psychotherapy provided in the context of  
 37 clinical social work services.

38 (3) A maximum of 1,000 hours in client-centered advocacy,  
 39 consultation, evaluation, research, direct supervisor contact, and  
 40 workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly

1 related to clinical social work that have been approved by the  
2 applicant's supervisor.

3 (4) A minimum of two years of supervised experience is required  
4 to be obtained over a period of not less than 104 weeks and shall  
5 have been gained within the seven years immediately preceding  
6 the date on which the application for licensure was received by  
7 the board.

8 (5) No more than 40 hours of experience may be credited in  
9 any seven consecutive days.

10 (6) For hours gained on or after January 1, 2010, no more than  
11 six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group  
12 supervision, shall be credited during any single week.

13 SEC. 23. Section 4996.28 of the Business and Professions  
14 Code is amended to read:

15 4996.28. (a) Registration as an associate clinical social worker  
16 shall expire one year from the last day of the month during which  
17 it was issued. To renew a registration, subject to the additional  
18 limitations imposed by subdivision (c), the registrant shall, on or  
19 before the expiration date of the registration, complete all of the  
20 following actions:

21 (1) Apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the board.

22 (2) Pay a renewal fee prescribed by the board.

23 (3) Notify the board whether they have been convicted, as  
24 defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, and whether  
25 any disciplinary action has been taken by a regulatory or licensing  
26 board in this or any other state, subsequent to the last renewal of  
27 the registration.

28 (4) Certify under penalty of perjury their compliance with the  
29 continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4996.22.

30 (b) An expired registration may be renewed by completing all  
31 of the actions described in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
32 subdivision (a).

33 (c) A registration as an associate clinical social worker may be  
34 renewed a maximum of six times. No registration shall be renewed  
35 or reinstated beyond seven years from the last day of the month  
36 during which the registration was issued, regardless of whether  
37 the registration has been revoked. When no further renewals are  
38 possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a subsequent  
39 associate clinical social worker registration number if the applicant  
40 meets all requirements for registration in effect at the time of their

1 application for a subsequent associate clinical social worker  
 2 registration number and has passed the California law and ethics  
 3 examination pursuant to Section 4992.09 no more than seven years  
 4 prior to the board’s receipt of the application for the subsequent  
 5 associate registration number.

6 (d) An applicant issued a subsequent associate registration  
 7 number pursuant to subdivision ~~(d)~~ (c) shall not be employed or  
 8 volunteer in a private practice.

9 (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), an applicant applying for  
 10 or who currently holds a subsequent associate registration number  
 11 may request that the board grant them a one-time,  
 12 two-consecutive-year hardship extension to allow them to be  
 13 employed or volunteer at one private practice or professional  
 14 corporation employer with their subsequent associate registration  
 15 ~~number.~~ *number in accordance with the following:*

- 16 (1) An associate shall not be issued more than one extension.
- 17 (2) The extension is only valid for the one private practice or  
 18 professional corporation employer for which it is requested.
- 19 (3) Work for the employer shall not commence or continue until  
 20 the extension is approved by the board.
- 21 (4) The application shall be jointly signed under penalty of  
 22 perjury and dated by the associate, the supervisor, and, if the  
 23 supervisor is not employed by the supervisee’s employer or is a  
 24 volunteer, a representative of the employer.
- 25 (5) The board shall grant the extension provided that the  
 26 application is signed, all information required is provided, and  
 27 good cause is demonstrated. The application shall contain all of  
 28 the following:
  - 29 (A) The date the extension is needed to commence or continue  
 30 work for the employer.
  - 31 (B) The name of the employer where the associate will be  
 32 gaining hours.
  - 33 (C) An attestation that the employer is a private practice or a  
 34 professional corporation.
  - 35 (D) The name, license type, and license number of the current  
 36 supervisor.
  - 37 (E) A showing of good cause for the applicant being unable to  
 38 complete the licensure process within seven years. Good cause  
 39 may include, but is not limited to, extended medical leave, family

1 caregiving responsibilities, difficulties finding employment, or  
2 circumstances beyond the applicant’s control.

3 (F) A description of the plan for the associate to gain the needed  
4 hours toward licensure during the two-year extension period.

5 SEC. 24. Section 4999.22 of the Business and Professions  
6 Code is amended to read:

7 4999.22. (a) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent qualified  
8 members of the other professional groups from doing work of a  
9 psychosocial nature consistent with the standards, ethics, and scope  
10 of practice of their respective professions. However, these qualified  
11 ~~persons~~ *members* shall not hold themselves out to the public by  
12 any title or description of services incorporating the words  
13 ~~“psychosocial,” “psychotherapy,” or “professional clinical~~  
14 ~~counselor”~~ and shall not state that they are licensed or registered  
15 to practice professional clinical counseling. ~~Qualified These~~  
16 *qualified* members of other professional groups include, but are  
17 not limited to, the following:

18 (1) A physician and surgeon certified pursuant to Chapter 5  
19 (commencing with Section 2000).

20 (2) A registered nurse licensed pursuant to Chapter 6  
21 (commencing with Section 2700).

22 (3) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6  
23 (commencing with Section 2900).

24 (4) Members of the State Bar.

25 (5) Marriage and family therapists licensed pursuant to Chapter  
26 13 (commencing with Section 4980).

27 (6) Educational psychologists licensed pursuant to Chapter 13.5  
28 (commencing with Section 4989.10).

29 (7) Clinical social workers licensed pursuant to Chapter 14  
30 (commencing with Section 4991).

31 (b) This chapter shall not be construed to constrict, limit, or  
32 withdraw ~~provisions~~ of the Medical Practice Act (Chapter 5  
33 (commencing with Section 2000)), the Clinical Social Worker  
34 Practice Act (Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991)), the  
35 Nursing Practice Act (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700)),  
36 the Psychology Licensing Law (Chapter 6.6 (commencing with  
37 Section 2900)), or the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
38 Act (Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980)).

(c) This chapter shall not apply to any person who is admitted to practice law in this state, or who is licensed to practice medicine, who provides counseling services as part of their professional practice.

39 (c) This chapter shall not apply to any priest, rabbi, imam,  
40 minister of the gospel, or other religious official of any

1 denomination when providing faith-based counseling services as  
 2 part of their regular professional duties for an established and  
 3 legally recognizable faith-based entity, such as a church,  
 4 synagogue, mosque, or other recognized religious organization,  
 5 provided that all of the following criteria are met:

6 (1) The services are performed solely under the direct auspices  
 7 of that faith-based entity.

8 (2) A separate fee, beyond their customary compensation from  
 9 that faith-based entity, is not charged or received.

10 (3) They do not hold themselves out to the public by any title  
 11 or description of services incorporating the words ~~psychosocial,~~  
 12 ~~psychotherapy, or professional clinical counselor,~~ “*psychosocial,*”  
 13 “*psychotherapy,*” or “*professional clinical counselor,*” and shall  
 14 not state or imply that they are licensed or registered to practice  
 15 professional clinical counseling.

16 (4) The services provided are limited to counseling services  
 17 provided in a religious or spiritual context and do not involve the  
 18 diagnosis or treatment of mental health disorders.

19 (d) This chapter shall not apply to an unlicensed or unregistered  
 20 employee or volunteer working in a governmental entity, a school,  
 21 a college, a university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and  
 22 charitable, if both of the following apply:

23 (1) The work of the employee or volunteer is performed under  
 24 the oversight and direction of the entity.

25 (2) (A) On and after July 1, 2020, the employee or volunteer  
 26 provides a client, prior to initiating psychotherapy services or as  
 27 soon as practicably possible thereafter, a notice written in at least  
 28 12-point type that is in substantially the following form:

29

30 NOTICE TO CLIENTS

31 The (Name of office or unit) of the (Name of agency) receives  
 32 and responds to complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapy  
 33 by any unlicensed or unregistered practitioner providing services  
 34 at (Name of agency). To file a complaint, contact (Telephone  
 35 number, email address, internet website, or mailing address of  
 36 agency).

37 The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to  
 38 complaints regarding services provided by individuals licensed  
 39 and registered by the board. If you have a complaint and are unsure  
 40 if your practitioner is licensed or registered, please contact the

1 Board of Behavioral Sciences at 916-574-7830 for assistance or  
2 utilize the board’s online license verification feature by visiting  
3 [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov).

4

5 (B) The delivery of the notice described in subparagraph (A)  
6 to the client shall be documented.

7 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (c) and (d), all persons  
8 registered as associates or licensed under this chapter shall not be  
9 exempt from this chapter or the jurisdiction of the board.

10 SEC. 25. Section 4999.46 of the Business and Professions  
11 Code is amended to read:

12 4999.46. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), all  
13 applicants shall have an active associate registration with the board  
14 in order to gain postdegree hours of supervised experience. An  
15 associate or applicant for licensure shall be under the supervision  
16 of a supervisor at all times. An associate shall inform each client,  
17 before performing any professional services, that the associate is  
18 unlicensed and under supervision.

19 (b) (1) Postdegree hours of experience gained before the  
20 issuance of an associate registration shall be credited toward  
21 licensure if all of the following apply:

22 (A) The registration applicant applies for the associate  
23 registration and the board receives the application within 90 days  
24 of the granting of the qualifying master’s degree or doctoral degree.

25 (B) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January  
26 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to  
27 the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours,  
28 requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall  
29 provide the board with a copy of that completed State of California  
30 “Request for Live Scan Service” form with their application for  
31 licensure.

32 (C) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.

33 (2) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private  
34 practice or a professional corporation until they have been issued  
35 an associate registration by the board.

36 (c) Supervised experience that is obtained for the purposes of  
37 qualifying for licensure shall be related to the practice of  
38 professional clinical counseling and comply with the following:

39 (1) A minimum of 3,000 postdegree hours performed over a  
40 period of not less than two years (104 weeks).

1 (2) Not more than 40 hours in any seven consecutive days.

2 (3) Not less than 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with  
3 individuals, groups, couples, or families using a variety of  
4 psychotherapeutic techniques and recognized counseling  
5 interventions.

6 (4) A maximum of 1,250 hours of nonclinical practice,  
7 consisting of direct supervisor contact, administering and  
8 evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing  
9 progress or process notes, client-centered advocacy, and  
10 workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly  
11 related to professional clinical counseling that have been approved  
12 by the applicant’s supervisor.

13 (5) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision  
14 of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally  
15 related mental health services that are consistent with the scope  
16 of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section  
17 4989.14.

18 (d) Experience hours shall not have been gained more than seven  
19 years prior to the date the application for licensure was received  
20 by the board.

21 SEC. 26. Section 4999.46.1 of the Business and Professions  
22 Code is repealed.

23 SEC. 27. Section 4999.50 of the Business and Professions  
24 Code is amended to read:

25 4999.50. (a) The board may issue a professional clinical  
26 counselor license to any person who meets all of the following  
27 requirements:

28 (1) They have received a master’s or doctoral degree described  
29 in Section 4999.32 or 4999.33, as applicable.

30 (2) They have completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised  
31 experience in the practice of professional clinical counseling.

32 (3) They provide evidence of a passing score, as determined by  
33 the board, on the examinations designated in Section 4999.53.  
34 Each examination shall be passed no more than seven years prior  
35 to the board’s receipt of the application for initial license issuance.

36 (b) An applicant for licensure who has satisfied the requirements  
37 of this chapter shall be issued a license as a professional clinical  
38 counselor.

39 SEC. 28. Section 4999.52 of the Business and Professions  
40 Code is amended to read:

1 4999.52. (a) Every applicant for a license as a professional  
2 clinical counselor shall take one or more examinations, as  
3 determined by the board, to ascertain their knowledge, professional  
4 skills, and judgment in the utilization of appropriate techniques  
5 and methods of professional clinical counseling.

6 (b) The examinations shall be given at least twice a year at a  
7 time and place and under supervision as the board may determine.

8 (c) The board shall not deny any applicant admission to an  
9 examination who has submitted a complete application for  
10 examination admission if the applicant meets the educational and  
11 experience requirements of this chapter and has not committed  
12 any acts or engaged in any conduct that would constitute grounds  
13 to deny licensure.

14 (d) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application  
15 for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination,  
16 nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant's clinical  
17 examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint  
18 alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny  
19 licensure.

20 (e) If an applicant for the examination specified by paragraph  
21 (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53, who has passed the  
22 California law and ethics examination, is the subject of a complaint  
23 or is under board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven  
24 to be true, would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure,  
25 the board shall permit the applicant to take this examination, but  
26 may notify the applicant that licensure will not be granted pending  
27 completion of the investigation.

28 (f) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any  
29 applicant who has previously failed either the California law and  
30 ethics examination, or the examination specified by paragraph (2)  
31 of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53, permission to retake either  
32 examination pending completion of the investigation of any  
33 complaints against the applicant.

34 (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the board from denying  
35 an applicant admission to any examination or refusing to issue a  
36 license to any applicant when an accusation or statement of issues  
37 has been filed against the applicant pursuant to Section 11503 or  
38 11504 of the Government Code, respectively, or the application  
39 has been denied in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 485.

1 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may  
 2 destroy all examination materials two years following the date of  
 3 an examination.

4 (i) The clinical examination shall be passed no more than seven  
 5 years prior to the board’s receipt of the application for initial  
 6 license issuance.

7 SEC. 29. Section 4999.53 of the Business and Professions  
 8 Code is amended to read:

9 4999.53. (a) A registrant or an applicant for licensure as a  
 10 professional clinical counselor shall pass the following  
 11 examinations as prescribed by the board:

- 12 (1) A California law and ethics examination.
- 13 (2) A clinical examination administered by the board, or the  
 14 National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination if the  
 15 board finds that this examination meets the prevailing standards  
 16 for validation and use of the licensing and certification tests in  
 17 California.

18 ~~(3)~~

19 (b) The board shall grant eligibility to take the California law  
 20 and ethics examination upon approval of an application for  
 21 registration or an application for licensure and submission of the  
 22 required application and fee.

23 ~~(b)~~

24 (c) The board may grant an applicant for licensure eligibility to  
 25 take the clinical examination or the National Clinical Mental Health  
 26 Counselor Examination, as established by the board through  
 27 regulation, only upon meeting all of the following requirements:

- 28 (1) Completion of all required supervised work experience.
- 29 (2) Completion of all education requirements.
- 30 (3) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.

31 SEC. 30. Section 4999.55 of the Business and Professions  
 32 Code is amended to read:

33 4999.55. (a) Each applicant and registrant shall obtain a  
 34 passing score on a board-administered California law and ethics  
 35 examination in order to qualify for licensure. The California law  
 36 and ethics examination shall be passed no more than seven years  
 37 prior to the board’s receipt of the application for initial license  
 38 issuance.

39 (b) If an applicant fails the California law and ethics  
 40 examination, they may retake the examination after any waiting

1 period as specified in regulation upon payment of the required fees  
2 and submission of a reexamination application.

3 (c) The board shall not issue a subsequent associate registration  
4 number unless the applicant has passed the California law and  
5 ethics examination no more than seven years prior to the board's  
6 receipt of the application for the subsequent associate registration  
7 number.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the seven-year  
9 age limit on the California law and ethics examination shall not  
10 apply to any application for initial license issuance or subsequent  
11 associate registration number received by the board on or before  
12 January 1, 2030.

13 (e) A registrant shall complete a minimum of three hours of  
14 continuing education ~~in~~ on the subject of California law and ethics  
15 during each renewal period in order to be eligible to renew their  
16 registration. The coursework shall be obtained from a  
17 board-accepted provider of continuing education, as specified in  
18 Section 4999.76.

19 SEC. 31. Section 4999.64 of the Business and Professions  
20 Code is amended to read:

21 4999.64. An applicant who fails the examination specified in  
22 paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53 may, within  
23 one year from the notification date of that failure, retake the  
24 examination as regularly scheduled without further application  
25 upon payment of the fee for the examination. Thereafter, the  
26 applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until they  
27 file a new application, meet all requirements in effect on the date  
28 of application, and pay all required fees.

29 SEC. 32. Section 4999.100 of the Business and Professions  
30 Code is amended to read:

31 4999.100. (a) An associate registration shall expire one year  
32 from the last day of the month in which it was issued.

33 (b) To renew a registration subject to the additional limitations  
34 imposed by subdivision (d), the registrant, on or before the  
35 expiration date of the registration, shall do the following:

36 (1) Apply for a renewal on a form prescribed by the board.

37 (2) Pay a renewal fee prescribed by the board.

38 (3) Notify the board whether they have been convicted, as  
39 defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, or whether  
40 any disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory or

1 licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the  
2 registrant’s last renewal.

3 (4) Certify under penalty of perjury their compliance with the  
4 continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4999.76.

5 (c) An expired registration may be renewed by completing all  
6 of the actions described in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
7 subdivision (b).

8 (d) The associate registration may be renewed a maximum of  
9 six times. Registration shall not be renewed or reinstated beyond  
10 seven years from the last day of the month during which it was  
11 issued, regardless of whether it has been revoked. When no further  
12 renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a  
13 subsequent associate registration number if the applicant meets  
14 the educational requirements for a subsequent associate registration  
15 number and has passed the California law and ethics examination  
16 described in Section 4999.53 no more than seven years prior to  
17 the board’s receipt of the application for the subsequent registration  
18 number.

19 (e) An applicant who is issued a subsequent associate  
20 registration number pursuant to subdivision (d) shall not be  
21 employed or volunteer in a private practice.

22 (f) Notwithstanding subdivision (e), an applicant applying for  
23 or who currently holds a subsequent associate registration number  
24 may request that the board grant them a one-time,  
25 two-consecutive-year hardship extension to allow them to be  
26 employed or volunteer at one private practice or professional  
27 corporation employer with their subsequent associate registration  
28 number in accordance with the following:

29 (1) An associate shall not be issued more than one extension.

30 (2) The extension is only valid for the one private practice or  
31 professional corporation employer for which it is requested.

32 (3) Work for the employer shall not commence or continue until  
33 the extension is approved by the board.

34 (4) The application shall be jointly signed under penalty of  
35 perjury and dated by the associate, the supervisor, and, if the  
36 supervisor is not employed by the supervisee’s employer or is a  
37 volunteer, a representative of the employer.

38 (5) The board shall grant the extension provided that the  
39 application is signed, all information required is provided, and

1 good cause is demonstrated. The application shall contain all of  
2 the following:

3 (A) The date the extension is needed to commence or continue  
4 work for the employer.

5 (B) The name of the employer where the associate will be  
6 gaining hours.

7 (C) An attestation that the employer is a private practice or a  
8 professional corporation.

9 (D) The name, license type, and license number of the current  
10 supervisor.

11 (E) A showing of good cause for the applicant being unable to  
12 complete the licensure process within seven years. Good cause  
13 may include, but is not limited to, extended medical leave, family  
14 caregiving responsibilities, difficulties finding employment, or  
15 circumstances beyond the applicant's control.

16 (F) A description of the plan for the associate to gain the needed  
17 hours toward licensure during the two-year extension period.

18 SEC. 33. Section 4999.120 of the Business and Professions  
19 Code is amended to read:

20 4999.120. The board shall assess the following fees relating  
21 to the licensure of professional clinical counselors:

22 (a) The fee for the application for licensure shall be two hundred  
23 fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the  
24 fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars  
25 (\$500).

26 (b) The fee for the application for associate registration shall  
27 be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt  
28 regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of  
29 three hundred dollars (\$300).

30 (c) (1) (A) The fee for the board-administered clinical  
31 examination, if the board chooses to adopt this examination in  
32 regulations, shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board  
33 may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a  
34 maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).

35 (B) The fee for the California law and ethics examination shall  
36 be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt  
37 regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of  
38 three hundred dollars (\$300).

1 (2) An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, after  
2 having been scheduled to take the examination, shall forfeit the  
3 examination fees.

4 (3) The amount of the examination fees shall be based on the  
5 actual cost to the board of developing, purchasing, and grading  
6 each examination and the actual cost to the board of administering  
7 each examination. The written examination fees shall be adjusted  
8 periodically by regulation to reflect the actual costs incurred by  
9 the board.

10 (d) The fee for the issuance of a license shall be two hundred  
11 dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
12 a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

13 (e) The fee for the annual renewal of an associate registration  
14 shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt  
15 regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of  
16 three hundred dollars (\$300).

17 (f) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred  
18 dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at  
19 a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

20 (g) The renewal delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for  
21 license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire shall  
22 be subject to the delinquency fee.

23 (h) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars  
24 (\$40).

25 (i) The fee for issuance of a replacement license or registration  
26 shall be twenty dollars (\$20).

27 (j) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing  
28 shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).

29 SEC. 34. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
30 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
31 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
32 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
33 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
34 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
35 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
36 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
37 Constitution.

O