

SENATE BILL NO. 105

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR WILSON

Introduced: 4/4/17

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the licensure of marital and family therapists; relating to**
2 **professional liability insurance for marital and family therapists; relating to medical**
3 **assistance for marital and family therapy services; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 *** Section 1.** AS 08.63.100(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) The board shall issue a license to practice marital and family therapy to a
7 person who

8 (1) applies on a form provided by the board;

9 (2) pays the fee established under AS 08.01.065;

10 (3) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the person

11 (A) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for imposing
12 disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.63.210;

13 (B) holds a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family
14 therapy or allied mental health field from a regionally accredited educational

1 institution approved by the board for which the person completed a course of
2 study that included instruction substantially equivalent to the following:

3 (i) three courses or nine semester or 12 quarter hours of
4 course work in marital and family therapy;

5 (ii) three courses or nine semester or 12 quarter hours of
6 course work in marital and family studies;

7 (iii) three courses or nine semester or 12 quarter hours
8 of course work in human development;

9 (iv) one course or three semester or four quarter hours
10 of course work in professional studies or professional ethics and law;

11 (v) one course or three semester or four quarter hours of
12 course work in research; and

13 (vi) one year of supervised clinical practice in marital
14 and family therapy;

15 (C) after receiving a degree described in (B) of this paragraph,
16 has

17 [(i)] practiced supervised marital and family therapy,
18 including 1,500 hours of [DIRECT] clinical contact with couples,
19 individuals, and families; the 1,500 hours of [AND

20 (ii) BEEN SUPERVISED IN THE] clinical contact
21 must include [FOR] at least [200 HOURS, INCLUDING] 100 hours
22 of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision approved
23 by the board; the 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours
24 of group supervision may be conducted by one or more
25 supervisors;

26 (D) has received training related to domestic violence; [AND]

27 (E) has passed a written or oral examination administered by
28 the board; and

29 (F) has professional liability insurance; the insurance must
30 include coverage of not less than \$30,000 for the applicant's regulatory
31 investigation fees in the state.

* Sec. 2. AS 08.63.120(b) is amended to read:

(b) A person who supervises a licensee under this section during

(1) individual supervision must

(A) [(1)] have practiced marital and family therapy for five years;

(B) [(2)] be licensed under this chapter; and

(C) [(3)] meet the minimum standards established by the board for approved supervisors; or

(2) group supervision must be licensed to practice as a

(A) professional counselor under AS 08.29;

(B) marital and family therapist under AS 08.63;

(C) physician under AS 08.64 who is licensed by the State Medical Board as a psychiatrist;

(D) advanced practice registered nurse under AS 08.68 who is authorized by the Board of Nursing to practice as an adult or family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner;

(E) psychologist under AS 08.86; or

(F) clinical social worker under AS 08.95.

* Sec. 3. AS 47.07.030(b) is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the mandatory services specified in (a) of this section and the services provided under (d) of this section, the department may offer only the following optional services: case management services for traumatic or acquired brain injury; case management and nutrition services for pregnant women; personal care services in a recipient's home; emergency hospital services; long-term care noninstitutional services; medical supplies and equipment; advanced practice registered nurse services; clinic services; rehabilitative services for children eligible for services under AS 47.07.063, substance abusers, and emotionally disturbed or chronically mentally ill adults; targeted case management services; inpatient psychiatric facility services for individuals 65 years of age or older and individuals under 21 years of age; psychologists' services; clinical social workers' services; marital and family therapy services; midwife services; prescribed drugs; physical

1 therapy; occupational therapy; chiropractic services; low-dose mammography
 2 screening, as defined in AS 21.42.375(e); hospice care; treatment of speech, hearing,
 3 and language disorders; adult dental services; prosthetic devices and eyeglasses;
 4 optometrists' services; intermediate care facility services, including intermediate care
 5 facility services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; skilled
 6 nursing facility services for individuals under 21 years of age; and reasonable
 7 transportation to and from the point of medical care.

8 * Sec. 4. AS 47.07.030(g) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

9 (4) "direct supervision" means that one or more psychiatrists are on the
 10 premises of a mental health physician clinic to provide services relating to mental
 11 health at least 30 percent of the time that the clinic is open to provide those services;

12 (5) "mental health physician clinic" means a clinic that

13 (A) is operated by one or more psychiatrists; and

14 (B) primarily provides clinic services relating to mental health;

15 (6) "psychiatrist" means a person licensed to practice as a physician
 16 under AS 08.64 who is licensed by the State Medical Board as a psychiatrist.

17 * Sec. 5. AS 47.07.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 (h) The department may reimburse a mental health physician clinic for clinic
 19 services under (b) of this section if the services are provided by

20 (1) a psychiatrist; or

21 (2) an individual who

22 (A) works under the direct supervision of a psychiatrist; and

23 (B) is licensed to practice as

24 (i) a professional counselor under AS 08.29;

25 (ii) a marital and family therapist under AS 08.63;

26 (iii) a physician assistant under AS 08.64;

27 (iv) an advanced nurse practitioner under AS 08.68 who
 28 is authorized by the Board of Nursing to practice as an adult or family
 29 psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner;

30 (v) a psychologist under AS 08.86;

31 (vi) a psychological associate under AS 08.86; or

1 (vii) a clinical social worker under AS 08.95.

2 * **Sec. 6.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 **TRANSITION: REGULATIONS.** The Department of Health and Social Services and
5 the Board of Marital and Family Therapy may adopt regulations necessary to implement the
6 changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative
7 Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

8 * **Sec. 7.** Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

9 * **Sec. 8.** Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2018.