

**HOUSE BILL NO. 353**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE SPOHNHOLZ**

**Introduced: 2/16/18**

**Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

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

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

31 **(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 therapists' services;** midwife services; prescribed drugs; physical therapy; occupational therapy; chiropractic services; low-dose mammography screening, as defined in AS 21.42.375(e); hospice care; treatment of speech, hearing, and language disorders; adult dental services; prosthetic devices and eyeglasses;

1 optometrists' services; intermediate care facility services, including intermediate care  
 2 facility services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; skilled  
 3 nursing facility services for individuals under 21 years of age; and reasonable  
 4 transportation to and from the point of medical care.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (1) a psychiatrist; or

18 (2) an individual who

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

20 (B) is licensed to practice as

21 (i) a professional counselor under AS 08.29;

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

23 (iii) a physician assistant under AS 08.64;

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

27 (v) a psychologist under AS 08.86;

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

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

30 \* **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
 31 read:

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

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

6       \* **Sec. 8.** Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2019.