

March 26, 2009

S 935. AMEND MARRIAGE & FAMILY LICENSURE LAWS/FEES. Filed 3/25/09. *AMENDING THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE LAWS AND AUTHORIZING THE NORTH CAROLINA MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD TO INCREASE FEES.*

Amends GS 90-270.48 allowing a licensed marriage and family therapy associate to hold him- or herself out as a person practicing marriage and family therapy. Enacts GS 90-270.54A setting out requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist associate. Amends various provisions in the Article on Marriage and Family Licensure including: GS 90-270.48A (exemptions), GS 90-270.49 (NC Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board), GS 90-271.51 (powers and duties of the Board), GS 90-270.55 (examinations), GS 90-270.56 (reciprocal licenses), GS 90-270.57 (fees), GS 90-270.58 (renewal of license), GS 90-270.58B (inactive status), GS 90-270.58C (continuing education requirements), and GS 20-270.59 (disposition of funds). Repeals GS 90-270.55A (temporary license). Makes significant changes to GS 90-270.60 pertaining to denial, revocation, suspension of licenses and other disciplinary and remedial actions. Enacts GS 90-270.63 and GS 114-26 pertaining to criminal history checks of applicants for licensure as marriage and family therapists and as marriage and family therapist associates. Amends various definitions and enacts new definitional provisions in GS 90-270.47. Makes conforming changes to GS 90-270.54.

Intro. by Goss.

GS 90, 114

June 1, 2009

S 935. AMEND MARRIAGE & FAMILY LICENSURE LAWS/FEES. Filed 3/25/09. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition.

Amends the definition for *Recognized educational institution* in GS 90-270.47 to specify that the term means any university, college, professional school, or other institution of higher learning meeting the following specified accreditation standards: (1) in the United States, regionally accredited by bodies approved by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or its successor; (2) in Canada, holds a membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; (3) in other countries, accredited by the comparable official organization having this authority and is recognized by the NC Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board (Board). (In the 1st edition, *Recognized educational institution* was defined as any educational institution accredited by the United States Department of Education that grants a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree and is recognized by the Board and by a nationally or regionally recognized educational or professional accrediting body.)

Amends GS 90-270.48A by adding new subsection (c) to prohibit a person practicing marriage and family therapy under the exemptions under the Marriage and Family Licensure Act (Article 18C of GS Chapter 90) from identifying himself or herself as a licensed marriage and family therapist or licensed marriage and family therapy associate.

Adds a new subsection (h) to GS 90-270.51 to authorize the Board to require the submission of records concerning the practice of marriage and family therapy relevant to a complaint received by the Board or an inquiry or investigation conducted by or on behalf of the Board. Provides that any records submitted are not to become public records as defined by GS 132-1. Requires a licensee or the licensee's employing agency to maintain records for a minimum of five years from the date that services are terminated, and in the case of minor clients, until the client attains the age of 22 years or five years after the date services are terminated, whichever occurs later. Directs a licensee to fully cooperate in a timely manner with the Board in an inquiry or investigation conducted on behalf of the Board.

Amends proposed GS 90-270.54A(c) to authorize the Board to grant a one-year extension of the marriage and therapy associate license upon the receipt and approval of an application for the extension and payment of the authorized fee. Amends GS 90-270.57(a) to add a fee of \$50 for each application to extend the associate license.

Changes the effective date of the act to October 1, 2009 (was, the act is effective when it becomes law).

Makes additional clarifying and technical changes.

June 10, 2009

S 935. AMEND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LICENSURE LAWS/FEES. Filed 3/25/09. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Deletes authority in GS 90-270.57 for the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board to refund fees where applicant is ineligible.

August 3, 2009

SL 2009-393 (S 935). AMEND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LICENSURE LAWS/FEES. AN ACT AMENDING THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE LAWS AND AUTHORIZING THE NORTH CAROLINA MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD TO INCREASE FEES. Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 3/26/09, 6/1/09, and 6/10/09. Enacted July 31, 2009. Effective October 1, 2009.