



## 1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 509

September 16, 1997 - Introduced by Representative OTTE, by request of Department of Regulation and Licensing Secretary Marlene A. Cummings. Referred to Committee on Consumer Affairs.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 457.16 (3) and 457.20 (2); and **to create** 457.11 of the statutes;  
2             **relating to:** creating a marriage and family therapist training certificate and  
3             the eligibility requirements for taking the examination for a marriage and  
4             family therapist or professional counselor certificate.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, the professional counselor section of the examining board of social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors (board) grants certificates that allow persons to use certain titles relating to professional counseling. A person may not take the examination that is required for the certificate until he or she completes certain application, education and supervised clinical practice requirements.

This bill allows a person to take the examination before completing the supervised clinical practice requirements.

Current law also prohibits a person from using a title related to marriage and family therapy unless the marriage and family therapist section of the board has granted a marriage and family therapist certificate to the person. This prohibition does not apply to an independent clinical social worker who was certified on or before May 31, 1995.

To qualify for a marriage and family therapist certificate, a person must pass an examination. A person may not take this examination until he or she satisfies application and education requirements and completes the equivalent of at least 2 years of full-time supervised clinical marriage and family therapist practice.

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This bill allows a person to take the marriage and family therapy examination before he or she completes the equivalent of at least 2 years of full-time supervised clinical marriage and family therapy practice if he or she satisfies the application and education requirements.

This bill also creates a marriage and family therapist training certificate (training certificate) that is granted by the marriage and family therapist section. A person is eligible for a training certificate if he or she submits an application, pays a fee and satisfies the same education requirements that are required for a marriage and family therapist certificate. In addition, he or she must be employed part time or full time, or have an offer of part-time or full-time employment, as a marriage and family therapist in a supervised clinical marriage and family therapist practice, or in a position in which he or she will receive training and supervision that is equivalent to the training and supervision received in a supervised clinical marriage and family therapist practice.

Under the bill, the training certificate is valid for 24 months or until the person who holds the training certificate is no longer employed as a marriage and family therapist in a supervised clinical marriage and family therapist practice or an equivalent position, whichever is earlier. A person who holds a training certificate may use the titles "marriage and family therapist", "marriage and family counselor" or any similar title, and is considered to be certified as a marriage and family therapist for the purpose of any law governing marriage and family therapists.

Finally, the bill provides that a training certificate cannot be renewed.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 457.11 of the statutes is created to read:

2           **457.11 Marriage and family therapist training certificate.** (1) The  
3 marriage and family therapist section shall grant a marriage and family therapist  
4 training certificate to any individual who does all of the following:

5           (a) Submits an application for the certificate to the department on a form  
6 provided by the department.

7           (b) Pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (6).

8           (c) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.10 (2).

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1 (d) Submits evidence satisfactory to the marriage and family therapist section  
2 that he or she is employed part time or full time, or has an offer of part-time or  
3 full-time employment, as a marriage and family therapist in a supervised clinical  
4 marriage and family therapist practice or in a position in which the applicant will,  
5 in the opinion of the marriage and family therapist section, receive training and  
6 supervision equivalent to the training and supervision received in a supervised  
7 clinical marriage and family therapist practice.

8 (2) A marriage and family therapist training certificate is valid for 24 months  
9 or until the date on which the holder of the certificate ceases to be employed in a  
10 position specified in sub. (1) (d), whichever occurs first, and may not be renewed by  
11 the marriage and family therapist section.

12 (3) (a) A marriage and family therapist training certificate authorizes the  
13 holder to use any title specified in s. 457.04 (5) during the period in which the  
14 certificate is valid.

15 (b) A marriage and family therapist training certificate holder is a marriage  
16 and family therapist certified under this chapter for purposes of any law governing  
17 marriage and family therapists certified under this chapter.

18 **SECTION 2.** 457.16 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 457.16 (3) An individual is not eligible for examination unless he or she  
20 satisfies the requirements for certification under s. 457.08 (1) (a) and (b), (2) (intro.),  
21 (a) and (b), (3) (intro.) and (a) to (c) or (4) (intro.) and (a) to (c), 457.10 (1) ~~to (3)~~ and  
22 (2), or 457.12 (1) ~~to (3)~~ and (2), and, at least 30 days before the date of the  
23 examination, submits an application for examination to the department on a form  
24 provided by the department and pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1).

25 **SECTION 3.** 457.20 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

