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## OLR Bill Analysis

**sHB 7081 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE PORTABILITY FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill generally allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) to grant a license, without examination, to marital and family therapists (MFTs) licensed or certified in other U.S. states, territories, or commonwealths. Under current law, (1) DPH may do so only if the other jurisdiction's licensure standards are equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's (see BACKGROUND), and (2) for jurisdictions whose standards do not meet that threshold, applicants may substitute three years of work experience for the supervised practicum or internship and postgraduate experience generally required for licensure here. (Under the bill, the condition in (1) above continues to apply to MFT associates seeking licensure without examination.)

As under current law, (1) these MFT licensure applicants must pay the same initial application fee (\$200) as other applicants and (2) for DPH to grant a license under these circumstances, there must be no pending disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints against the applicant.

The bill also makes technical changes.

\*House Amendment "A" makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***MFT Licensure Criteria***

By law, to get an MFT license in this state, applicants generally must:

1. complete a graduate degree program specializing in marital and

family therapy, or postgraduate clinical training program, that meets certain accreditation requirements;

2. complete a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by their degree program or by an accredited postgraduate clinical program;
3. complete 24 months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (a) 1,000 hours of direct client contact meeting certain criteria and (b) 100 hours of postgraduate clinical supervision by a licensed MFT; and
4. pass a DPH-prescribed examination.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/05/2025)