



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 122

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7081

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE PORTABILITY FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist shall
4 present to the department satisfactory evidence that such applicant has:
5 (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing in marital and
6 family therapy offered by a regionally accredited college or university
7 or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program accredited by
8 the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
9 Education offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher
10 education; (2) completed a supervised practicum or internship with
11 emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised by the program
12 granting the requisite degree or by an accredited postgraduate clinical
13 training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for

14 Marriage and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally
15 accredited institution of higher education; (3) completed twenty-four
16 months of relevant postgraduate experience, including (A) a minimum
17 of one thousand hours of direct client contact offering marital and
18 family therapy services subsequent to being awarded a master's degree
19 or doctorate or subsequent to the training year specified in subdivision
20 (2) of this subsection, and (B) one hundred hours of postgraduate
21 clinical supervision provided by a licensed marital and family therapist;
22 and (4) passed an examination prescribed by the department. The fee
23 shall be two hundred dollars for each initial application.

24 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
25 associate shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
26 applicant has completed a graduate degree program specializing in
27 marital and family therapy offered by a regionally accredited institution
28 of higher education or an accredited postgraduate clinical training
29 program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage
30 and Family Therapy Education and offered by a regionally accredited
31 institution of higher education. The fee shall be one hundred twenty-
32 five dollars for each initial application.

33 (c) The department may grant licensure without examination, subject
34 to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any
35 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as (1) a marital or
36 marriage and family therapist in another state, territory or
37 commonwealth of the United States, or (2) a marital and family therapist
38 associate in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United
39 States, provided [such] the state, territory or commonwealth where such
40 marital and family therapist associate is currently licensed or certified
41 maintains licensure or certification standards which, in the opinion of
42 the department, are equivalent to or higher than the standards of this
43 state. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant
44 against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the
45 subject of an unresolved complaint.

46 (d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family therapist issued under

47 this section may be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions
48 of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred dollars.
49 Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license renewal
50 shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having
51 participated in continuing education programs. The commissioner shall
52 adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (A) define basic
53 requirements for continuing education programs, which shall include
54 not less than one contact hour of training or education each registration
55 period on the topic of cultural competency and, on and after January 1,
56 2016, not less than two contact hours of training or education during the
57 first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not
58 less than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health
59 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
60 including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
61 member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic
62 stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide
63 prevention training, (B) delineate qualifying programs, (C) establish a
64 system of control and reporting, and (D) provide for waiver of the
65 continuing education requirement for good cause.

66 (2) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate (A)
67 prior to July 1, 2023 shall expire on or before twenty-four months after
68 the date on which such license was issued, and [.] (B) on or after July 1,
69 2023 shall expire on or before twelve months after the date on which
70 such license was issued. Such license may be renewed not more than
71 two times if issued prior to July 1, 2023, and not more than three times
72 if issued on or after July 1, 2023, for twelve months in accordance with
73 the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one
74 hundred twenty-five dollars. Each licensed marital and family therapist
75 associate applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence
76 satisfactory to the commissioner of having satisfied the continuing
77 education requirements prescribed in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

78 [(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant who
79 is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family
80 therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the United

81 States that does not maintain standards for licensure or certification that
82 are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this state may
83 substitute three years of licensed or certified work experience in the
84 practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in section 20-195a, in
85 lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of
86 this section.]

87 [(f)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a person who
88 is a graduate of a graduate degree program or a postgraduate clinical
89 training program described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
90 section may practice marital and family therapy for a period not greater
91 than one hundred twenty calendar days after the date such person
92 completed such program, provided such person works under the
93 clinical supervision of a licensed marital family therapist.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	October 1, 2025	20-195c
-----------	-----------------	---------

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows all marriage and family therapists licensed in other states who apply for Department of Public Health licensure to be exempted from the examination requirement. This results in a potential minimal General Fund revenue gain to the extent that more individuals choose to apply for marriage and family therapist licensure than would have before this change. The fee for marriage and family therapist licensure is \$200.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7081*****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.

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)