

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7081

AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE PORTABILITY FOR MARRIAGE AND

Title: FAMILY THERAPISTS.

Vote Date: 3/5/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2025

File No.:

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill allows marital and family therapists licensed or certified in other states to be granted a license by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) if the other state's licensure standards are equivalent to, or higher than Connecticut's. Applicants who are from states not considered equivalent to Connecticut's licensure standards may substitute three years of work experience for the supervised practicum and postgraduate experience.

The substitute language provides licensure portability for fully licensed marriage and family therapists versus those in probationary periods.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jaime Rodriguez, Advocacy Chair, CT Association of MFT:

She stated that marriage and family therapists (MFT) practice in numerous settings and accept various insurance plans from private to Medicaid. She commented that MFTs are on the frontline of the mental health crisis and are trained through a systemic lens. She pointed out that MFT's are a smaller number of the specialized mental health provider community and that they do not have the number of professionals to engage in a compact. She stated that based on her organization's research, Connecticut is at or below other state's standards. She would like to exclude the associate level from portability as the intent was that portability

would only apply to fully licensed MFTs. She mentioned that other states have passed licensure portability for MFTs and believes that Connecticut should join those states.

Roger Smith, Chief Advocacy Officer, AAMFT:

He stated that approximately 1.54 million Connecticut residents are living in a designated mental health workforce shortage area and that the bill is based on nationally recognized licensure standards for MFTs. He mentioned that Virginia, Maryland, Arizona, and Tennessee have implemented similar programs that allow an MFT who has graduated from an accredited master's program, completed at least two years of supervised clinical experience, and passed the national licensure exam to practice in other states. He commented that qualified MFTs often face burdensome obstacles when relocating to Connecticut because of current licensure requirements. He believes that the bill ultimately will align Connecticut with best practices from other states, streamlining regulatory processes, and eliminating redundant licensing barriers.

Rebecca Burton, Practice Owner, Beehive Counseling:

She stated that this bill will increase access to care as currently their office alone fields dozens of calls each week from frustrated would-be couples and families. She spoke to another provider who was looking for family therapy and had called 53 providers with no luck.

Paul Levantino, Chairperson and Professor, SCSU MFT Department:

He believes that as chairperson of one of the three MFT programs in the state, this bill will provide Connecticut with a well-trained pool of mental health clinicians.

The following submitted testimony similar to expressed above in support of the bill:

David Borzellino, LMFT, Private Practice
Debra Borzellino, LMFT and Business Owner, CTAMFT
Jill Bukowski, Treasurer, CTAMFT
Amanda Byrne, LMFT, Community Health Center Inc.
Carol Campbell, LMFT
Joanna Oszmian Cirigliano
Anna Davenport, Magnolia Counseling LLC
Rachael Farina, LMFT, Rachael Farina LLC
Margo Gross, Marriage and Family Therapy, Darien Wellness LLC
Briana Hansen, Education Chair, CTAMFT
Sujatha Herne
Anjali Kothari, LMFT
Arpita Lai, Assistant Professor, CCSU
Quinn McDermott, LMFT and Owner, Only Human Therapy LLC
Laura Moya, Owner and Psychotherapist, Moya Family Therapy LLC
Amanda Pasciucco, CTAMFT Advocacy Committee Member, Life Coaching and Therapy LLC
Theresa Pennachio, Owner, Compass Counseling Services
Carla Ricci
Rebecca Ruitto, CTAMFT Advocacy Committee Member, CTAMFT

Diana Schneider, LMFT, Diana Abate Schneider LLC
Elliott Strick
Amy Young, Marriage and Family Therapist
Jordan Bryant, DEI Chair, CTAMFT
Megan Calderado
Kristina Chomick, Engagement Chair, CTAMFT Private Practice Owner
Mary Clark, LMFT
Kristen Diekmann, LMFT
Joel Garcia, LMFT
Alma Gusic, Marriage, and Family Therapist
Michael Hemenway, LMFT, Hemenway FTW LLC
Jessica Joseff, LMFT, CTAMFT
Lydia Krenicki, LMFT
Aneta Mocarska, LMFT, Pebble in the Sand Counseling
Chanel Myers, LMFT, Relationship Enrichment Center
Lauren Pedersen, Founder and Owner and LMFT
Ashley Quinones, CTAMFT Advocacy Committee Member, Restorative Hearts LLC
Jennifer Schaefer
Barbara Slimm, Ms, Private Practice
Charlotte Snetro
Gabrielle Wynschenk, LMFT, Private Practice Owner

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Piotr Kolakowski

Date: 3/7/2025