

House Bill 498

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Maxwell of the 17th, Chandler of the 105th, Clark of the 101st, Taylor of the 173rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-10A-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and others, so as to revise the
3 definition of "professional counseling"; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 43-10A-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
7 relative to professional counselors, social workers, and others, is amended by revising
8 paragraph (10) as follows:

9 "(10) 'Professional counseling' means that specialty which utilizes counseling techniques
10 based on principles, methods, and procedures of counseling that assist people in
11 identifying and resolving personal, social, vocational, intrapersonal, and interpersonal
12 concerns; utilizes counseling and psychotherapy to evaluate, diagnose, treat, and
13 recommend a course of treatment for emotional and mental problems and conditions,
14 whether cognitive, behavioral, or affective, provided that the counselor shall have training
15 and experience working with people with mental illness, mental retardation, or substance
16 abuse; administers and interprets educational and vocational assessment instruments and
17 other tests which the professional counselor is qualified to employ by virtue of education,
18 training, and experience; utilizes information, community resources, and goal setting for
19 personal, social, or vocational development; utilizes individual and group techniques for
20 facilitating problem solving, decision making, and behavior change; utilizes functional
21 assessment and vocational planning and guidance for persons requesting assistance in
22 adjustment to a disability or disabling condition; utilizes referral for persons who request
23 counseling services; performs service planning; and utilizes and interprets counseling
24 research."

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SECTION 2.

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.