

Senate Bill 319

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Kirk of the 13th, Unterman of the 45th, Henson of the 41st and Orrock of the 36th

AS PASSED SENATE

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 **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, developmental disability, or
16 substance abuse; administers and interprets educational and vocational assessment
17 instruments and other tests which the professional counselor is qualified to employ by
18 virtue of education, training, and experience; utilizes information, community resources,
19 and goal setting for personal, social, or vocational development; utilizes individual and
20 group techniques for facilitating problem solving, decision making, and behavior change;
21 utilizes functional assessment and vocational planning and guidance for persons
22 requesting assistance in adjustment to a disability or disabling condition; utilizes referral
23 for persons who request counseling services; performs service planning; and utilizes and
24 interprets counseling research."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.