

HOUSE No. 1904

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Danielle W. Gregoire

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to marriage and family therapists, rehabilitation counselors, mental health counselors, educational psychologists, applied behavior analysts; licenses; qualifications.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Danielle W. Gregoire

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

4th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 1904

By Miss Gregoire of Marlborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1904) of Danielle W. Gregoire relative to the issuance of licenses to applicants for marriage and family therapist, rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to marriage and family therapists, rehabilitation counselors, mental health counselors, educational psychologists, applied behavior analysts; licenses; qualifications.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking Section 165 and
2 inserting in place thereof the following:-

3 Section 165. The board may issue a license to an applicant as a marriage and family
4 therapist, a rehabilitation counselor and a mental health counselor; provided, however, that each
5 such applicant shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that such applicant: (1) is of good
6 moral character; (2) has not engaged or is not engaging in any practice or conduct which would
7 be grounds for refusing to issue a license under section one hundred and sixty-nine; (3)
8 demonstrates to the board, the successful completion of a masters degree in a relevant field from
9 an educational institution licensed by the state in which it is located and meets national standards
10 for granting of a masters degree with a subspecialization in marriage and family therapy,
11 rehabilitation counseling, counseling, or a relevant subspecialization approved by the board. To
12 be eligible for licensure, an applicant must have two additional years of supervised clinical

13 experience in the relevant field in either a clinic or hospital licensed by the department of mental
14 health or accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals or in an equivalent
15 center or institute or under the direction of a supervisor approved by the board. For purposes of
16 this clause, "Supervision" shall be defined as no less than two hundred hours of supervised
17 clinical experience, at least one hundred hours of which shall consist of individual supervision
18 with a clinician who has expertise in marriage and family therapy, rehabilitation counseling,
19 educational psychology, or counseling and who holds a masters degree in social work, marriage
20 and family therapy, rehabilitation counseling, educational psychology, counseling or an
21 equivalent field or holds a doctorate degree in psychology, or a medical degree with a
22 subspecialization in psychiatry; (4) successfully passes a written or oral examination
23 administered by the board to determine the applicant's qualifications for licensure for each
24 profession licensed pursuant to this section; and (5) an individual licensed under the provisions
25 of this section who also holds a valid license as a licensed certified social worker pursuant to the
26 provisions of section one hundred and thirty-one or section three of chapter eight hundred and
27 eighteen of the acts of nineteen hundred and seventy-seven shall designate which of such
28 licenses governs each practice in which he is engaged and except when engaged in practice as a
29 lecturer, teacher or researcher, he shall use the designated governing license and license title in
30 connection with said practice, including, advertising, business cards or announcements. Said
31 practice shall conform to the regulations of the board of registration which grants the designated
32 license.

33 The board shall promulgate rules and regulations specifying the required qualifications of
34 the supervising clinician.

35 The board may issue a license to an applicant as an educational psychologist; provided,
36 however, that each such applicant, in addition to complying with clauses (1), (2) and (5) of the
37 first paragraph shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that such applicant:

38 (1) has successfully completed a relevant masters degree in psychology from an
39 educational institution licensed by the state in which it is located;

40 (2) has successfully completed the equivalent of two full time academic years of post
41 masters degree experience in school psychological services supervised by a licensed educational
42 psychologist or a person eligible for licensing under this section; provided however, that such
43 supervisor has been regularly involved for at least thirty contact hours per year;

44 (3) has been certified as a school psychologist by the department of education or holds a
45 comparable certification from another state; and

46 (4) has successfully passed an oral or written examination administered by the board to
47 determine the applicant's qualifications as an educational psychologist.

48 The board may issue a license to an applicant as an applied behavior analyst; provided,
49 however, that each applicant, in addition to complying with clauses (1) and (2) of the first
50 paragraph shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant:

51 (1) provided that each such applicant demonstrates to the board that they are a Board
52 Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA; BCBA-D) in good standing with the Behavior Analyst
53 Certification Board (BACB) or has the equivalent certification from a Board-approved program
54 that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA);

55 (2) has successfully completed supervised experience in the practice of behavior analysis
56 that meets the standards established by the BACB for BCBA's or has the equivalent supervised
57 experience from a Board-approved program that is accredited by the National Commission for
58 Certifying Agencies (NCCA); and

59 (3) has successfully passed an examination related to the principles and independent
60 practice of applied behavior analysis established by the BACB for BCBA's or passes the
61 equivalent examination related to the principles and independent practice of applied behavior
62 analysis established by a Board-approved program that is accredited by the National Commission
63 for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

64 The board may issue a license to an applicant as an assistant applied behavior analyst;
65 provided, however, that each applicant, in addition to complying with clauses (1) and (2) of the
66 first paragraph shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant:

67 (1) provided that each such applicant demonstrates to the board that they are a Board
68 Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) in good standing with the BACB or has the
69 equivalent certification from a Board-approved program that is accredited by the National
70 Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA);

71 (2) has successfully completed supervised experience in the practice of behavior analysis
72 that meets the standards established by the BACB for BCaBA's or has the equivalent supervised
73 experience from a Board-approved program that is accredited by the National Commission for
74 Certifying Agencies (NCCA); and

75 (3) has successfully passed an examination related to the principles and independent
76 practice of applied behavior analysis established by the BACB for BCaBA's or passes the

- 77 equivalent examination related to the principles and independent practice of applied behavior
- 78 analysis established by a Board-approved program that is accredited by the National Commission
- 79 for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).