



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 18

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ENGROSSED

Introduced by: The Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of the Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists

1 **An Act to revise certain provisions regarding professional counselors.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

4 **36-32-47. Definitions.**

5 Terms used in this chapter mean:

6 (1) "Board," the Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage and Family
7 Therapists;

8 (2) "Counselor educator," a professional counselor engaged primarily in developing,
9 implementing, and supervising the educational preparation of professional
10 counselors;

11 (3) "Counseling," the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness or mental and
12 emotional disorders; individual, group, and marriage and family counseling, and
13 psychotherapy; assessment; crisis intervention; counseling and consulting to
14 facilitate normal growth and development; psychoeducational techniques aimed at
15 the prevention of mental and emotional disorders; consultations with individuals,
16 couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and clinical research;

17 (4) "Counseling treatment interventions," the application of cognitive, affective,
18 behavioral, and systemic counseling strategies that include principles of
19 development, wellness, and pathology, implemented in the context of a
20 professional counseling relationship;

21 (5) "Doctoral or master's degree in counseling," completion of study following a
22 bachelor's degree in a clearly identified counseling program that stands as a
23 recognizable organizational entity within an approved accredited institution of
24 higher learning;

25 (6) "Licensee," a person who holds a license to practice counseling;

1 (7) "Postgraduate supervision," a period of supervision following the completion of a
2 master's or doctoral degree;

3 (8) "Practice of professional counseling," the application of mental health,
4 psychological, and human development principles in order to:

5 (a) Facilitate human development and adjustment throughout the life span;

6 (b) Prevent, diagnose, and treat mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and
7 associated distresses, that interfere with mental health;

8 (c) Conduct assessments and diagnoses to establish treatment goals and
9 objectives; and

10 (d) Develop, implement, and evaluate treatment plans using counseling
11 treatment interventions.

12 **Section 2.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

13 **36-32-48. Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage and Family**
14 **Therapists--Membership--Appointment and qualifications.**

15 The board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. Five members
16 shall be professionals actively engaged in professional counseling or marriage and family
17 therapy and be representative of the various disciplines governed by the board. One
18 member shall be a current or retired counselor educator. Three members shall be
19 individuals who are not licensed to practice in a discipline governed by the board.

20 **Section 3.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

21 **36-32-49. Term of office--Compensation.**

22 The term of office for each board member is three years and begins on October
23 thirty-first. No member of the board may serve for more than three consecutive full terms.
24 If a person is appointed to fill a vacancy, that service is not counted as a term for purposes
25 of this section.

26 Each board member shall receive per diem compensation as provided in § 4-7-10.4
27 and expense reimbursement at the same rate as state employees, while engaged in official
28 duties.

29 **Section 4.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-50. Removal for cause--Vacancy.**

2 The Governor may remove a board member for cause. The Governor shall appoint
3 a new member to serve out an unexpired term in the case of a vacancy for any reason.

4 **Section 5.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

5 **36-32-51. Meetings--Election of officers.**

6 The board shall meet at least annually, at the time and place designated by the
7 president or by a majority of the board. A majority of the board's members constitutes a
8 quorum for the transaction of business.

9 The board shall annually elect a president and a vice president from among its
10 members.

11 **Section 6.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

12 **36-32-52. Immunity from liability.**

13 The board, board members, and board agents are immune from personal liability
14 for actions taken in good faith in the discharge of the board's duties. The state shall hold
15 the board, board members, and board agents harmless from all costs, damages, and
16 attorney fees arising from claims and suits against them with respect to matters to which
17 the immunity applies.

18 **Section 7.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

19 **36-32-53. Board within Department of Social Services.**

20 The board exists within the Department of Social Services. The board shall exercise
21 all prescribed functions, including administrative functions. The board shall provide
22 records, information, and reports to the secretary of the Department of Social Services at
23 the time and in the manner requested by the secretary.

24 **Section 8.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

25 **36-32-54. Moneys received by board--Fund--Deposit--Continuous**
26 **appropriation.**

27 The board shall forward all moneys received under the provisions of this chapter
28 to the state treasurer for deposit in the Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage
29 and Family Therapists fund hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account
30 are appropriated on a continuing basis to the board for the purpose of carrying out this

1 chapter. Any expenditures shall be paid on warrants drawn by the state auditor and
2 approved by the board or by an officer of the board. The total expenses may not exceed
3 the total moneys collected by the board under the provisions of this chapter.

4 For purposes of this chapter, the board may accept gifts, grants, and donations.

5 **Section 9.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

6 **36-32-55. Powers and duties of board.**

7 The board shall:

- 8 (1) Administer, coordinate, and enforce the provisions of this chapter and chapter 36-
9 33;
- 10 (2) Establish educational, training, examination, and competency standards for
11 professional counselors and licensees under this chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 12 (3) Establish standards for the safe and qualified practice of counseling and marriage
13 and family therapy;
- 14 (4) Evaluate the qualifications of applicants for licensure and issue and renew licenses
15 and permits under this chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 16 (5) Establish standards and responsibilities for post-graduate board approved
17 supervision for candidates for licensure under this chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 18 (6) Adopt ethical standards for the practice of counseling and marriage and family
19 therapy;
- 20 (7) Establish competency standards and responsibilities for post-graduate board-
21 approved supervisors under this chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 22 (8) Maintain the names of persons who meet the qualifications for a license or permit
23 under this chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 24 (9) Conduct all disciplinary proceedings under this chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 25 (10) Maintain a record of each complaint received by the board;
- 26 (11) Establish reasonable requirements regarding reentry into practice of inactive
27 practitioners and the reinstatement of previously licensed practitioners under this
28 chapter and chapter 36-33;
- 29 (12) Establish continuing education and continuing competency requirements for
30 licensees and permit holders under this chapter and chapter 36-33 and the
31 procedures for verifying compliance with the established requirements;
- 32 (13) Establish standards for the practice of distance counseling and distance marriage
33 and family therapy;

- 1 (14) Communicate license and permit actions and status to relevant state and federal
2 governing bodies, as required by law, or as the board determines is appropriate;
3 and
4 (15) Employ personnel in accordance with the needs and budget of the board and enter
5 into contracts as necessary to carry out the board's responsibilities under this
6 chapter.

7 **Section 10.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

8 **36-32-56. Promulgation of rules.**

9 The board may promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to set standards for
10 professional practice and establish procedures for application, professional practice,
11 licensure, eligibility, renewals, ethical standards, continuing education, supervision, and
12 examination of an applicant for and a holder of licensure as a licensed professional
13 counselor, licensed professional counselor--mental health, and licensed marriage and
14 family therapist.

15 **Section 11.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

16 **36-32-57. Display of license.**

17 Each license issued by the board under this chapter, shall be conspicuously
18 displayed by the licensee at the licensee's primary place of practice. Each licensee shall
19 post and keep conspicuously displayed the annual renewal certificate issued by the board.

20 **Section 12.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

21 **36-32-58. Unlicensed practice--Violation as misdemeanor.**

22 It is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to engage or attempt to engage in the
23 practice of professional counseling, without a license, unless exempted under the
24 provisions of this chapter.

25 **Section 13.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

26 **36-32-59. Use of certain titles by unlicensed persons--Prohibition.**

27 Unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, no person may
28 use the titles: licensed clinical mental health counselor, licensed clinical counselor,
29 licensed professional counselor--mental health, licensed professional counselor, or
30 licensed counselor, or any similar title.

1 **Section 14.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

2 **36-32-60. Fraudulent or misleading advertising--Violation as misdemeanor.**

3 No advertising regarding the practice of counseling may be fraudulent or
4 misleading. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

5 **Section 15.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

6 **36-32-61. Performing services outside of scope--Prohibition.**

7 No licensee may perform counseling services that are outside the scope of the
8 licensee's relevant education, training, and experience.

9 **Section 16.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

10 **36-32-62. Enforcement of chapter.**

11 The board may use board staff or employ or contract with an agent or investigator
12 to assist in enforcing this chapter or any rule promulgated by the board.

13 If it appears to the board that a person is violating any provision of this chapter or
14 any rule promulgated thereunder, the board may, in the board's name or in the name of
15 the state, bring an action in the circuit court of any county in which jurisdiction is proper,
16 to enjoin the action, practice, or violation, and to enforce compliance with this chapter, or
17 any rule promulgated thereunder. Criminal proceedings shall be prosecuted by the Office
18 of the Attorney General or by a person designated by the attorney general and retained
19 by the board as provided in this chapter.

20 **Section 17.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

21 **36-32-63. Assistance in enforcement--Expenditures--Employment of**
22 **attorney.**

23 The board and board members and officers shall assist any person charged with
24 the enforcement of this chapter. The board, board members, and officers shall furnish
25 evidence to assist in the prosecution of any violation or enforcement, and the board may
26 make a reasonable expenditure for that purpose. The board may employ an attorney
27 designated by the attorney general. The board shall determine the compensation and
28 period of service of the attorney and pay the attorney out of the board's funds.

29 **Section 18.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-64. Professional counselor--Application--Requirements.**

2 An applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall file an application, in
3 the manner prescribed by the board, together with the application fee prescribed by the
4 board in accordance with § 36-32-92. The board may issue a license as a professional
5 counselor to an applicant who pays the license fee and demonstrates that:

6 (1) The applicant has received a master's or a doctoral degree, consisting of at least
7 forty-eight credit hours in counseling from an accredited counseling program
8 recognized by the board;

9 (2) The applicant has passed the National Counselor Examination administered by the
10 National Board for Certified Counselors;

11 (3) Within the four years preceding the application, the applicant completed two
12 thousand hours of postgraduate supervision, in a manner prescribed by the board,
13 in counseling under a plan of supervision approved by the board;

14 (4) The applicant has no pending disciplinary proceeding or unresolved disciplinary
15 complaint;

16 (5) The applicant is of good moral character; and

17 (6) The applicant is not in violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule
18 promulgated thereunder.

19 The board may refuse to grant a license to an applicant who fails to meet the
20 requirements of this section.

21 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3), the board may grant a license,
22 to an applicant who does not complete the required postgraduate supervision within four
23 years of the application upon the applicant's show of good cause for exceeding the time
24 limit.

25 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (5), the board may grant a license
26 to an applicant who has been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony, to any crime involving
27 or relating to the practice of counseling, or to any crime involving dishonesty or moral
28 turpitude if the board determines that the applicant does not constitute a risk to public
29 safety.

30 An applicant may appeal the denial of a license in accordance with chapter 1-26.

31 **Section 19.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-65. Licensed professional counselor--Mental health--Application--**
2 **Requirements.**

3 An applicant for a license as a professional counselor--mental health shall file an
4 application, in the manner prescribed by the board, together with the application fee
5 prescribed by the board in accordance with § 36-32-92. The board may issue a license as
6 a professional counselor--mental health to an applicant who pays the license fee and
7 demonstrates that:

8 (1) The applicant has obtained licensure as a professional counselor under § 36-32-
9 64;

10 (2) The applicant has received a master's or a doctoral degree, consisting of at least
11 forty-eight credit hours in counseling, with an emphasis on mental health
12 counseling, from a counseling program approved by the Council for Accreditation
13 of Counseling and Related Educational Programs or an equivalent program, as
14 demonstrated by studies in the following areas:

15 (a) The general principles and practices of etiology, diagnosis, treatment, and
16 prevention of mental and emotional disorders and dysfunctional behavior;

17 (b) The general principles and practices for the promotion of optimal mental
18 health;

19 (c) The specific models and methods for assessing mental status;

20 (d) The identification of mental illness or abnormal, deviant, or
21 psychopathic behavior by obtaining appropriate behavioral data using
22 a variety of techniques, including nonprojective personality assessments
23 and achievement, aptitude, and intelligence testing, and translating findings
24 into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders;

25 (e) The specific theories of psychotherapy for initiating, maintaining, and
26 terminating therapy with a mentally and emotionally impaired client or a
27 client with disabilities in a variety of settings using a variety of modalities,
28 including crisis intervention, brief, intermediate, and long-term modalities;

29 (f) The basic classification, indications, and contraindications of the commonly
30 prescribed psychopharmacological medications for the purpose of
31 identifying the effects and side effects of prescribed psychotropic
32 medications;

33 (g) The guidelines for conducting an intake interview and mental health history
34 for planning and managing of client caseload; and

1 (h) The specific concepts and ideas related to mental health education,
2 outreach, prevention, and mental health promotion;

3 (3) The applicant has passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling
4 Examination administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors;

5 (4) Within the four years preceding the application, the applicant completed two
6 thousand hours of direct client contact postgraduate supervision in counseling, in
7 a manner prescribed by the board, under a plan of supervision approved by the
8 board;

9 (5) The applicant has no pending disciplinary proceeding or unresolved disciplinary
10 complaint;

11 (6) The applicant is of good moral character; and

12 (7) The applicant is not in violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule
13 promulgated thereunder.

14 The board may refuse to grant a license to an applicant who fails to meet the
15 requirements of this section.

16 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4), the board may grant a license
17 to an applicant who does not complete the required postgraduate supervision within four
18 years of the application upon the applicant's show of good cause for exceeding the time
19 limit.

20 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (6), the board may grant a license
21 to an applicant who has been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony, to any crime involving
22 or relating to the practice of counseling, or to any crime involving dishonesty or moral
23 turpitude if the board determines that the applicant does not constitute a risk to public
24 safety.

25 An applicant may appeal the denial of a license in accordance with chapter 1-26.

26 **Section 20.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

27 **36-32-66. Examination of applicant's physical or mental health.**

28 If the board suspects that the physical or mental health of any applicant may
29 jeopardize or endanger anyone who seeks assistance from the applicant, the board may
30 require that the applicant be examined by a competent healthcare provider selected by
31 the board. The board shall pay all costs of the examination.

32 If the health care provider confirms that the applicant's physical or mental health
33 may jeopardize or endanger anyone who seeks services from the applicant, the board may

1 deny the license until the applicant furnishes proof that the applicant's physical and mental
2 health is sufficient to practice counseling.

3 **Section 21.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

4 **36-32-67. Applicants licensed out-of-state--Licensure requirements.**

5 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the board may issue a license
6 as a professional counselor or professional counselor--mental health to an applicant who
7 is licensed to practice counseling in another state or territory of the United States if the
8 applicant demonstrates that:

9 (1) The applicant is currently licensed as a counselor and has been under the
10 jurisdiction of the licensing authority in the other jurisdiction for at least three
11 continuous years prior to the time of submitting an application to the board;

12 (2) The applicant is in good standing with the licensing authority in the other
13 jurisdiction;

14 (3) The applicant has been in an active practice during the three-year period before
15 the time of submitting an application to the board;

16 (4) The applicant passed the standard national examination approved by the board for
17 the specific license; and

18 (5) The applicant has no record of unprofessional conduct or any pending disciplinary
19 complaints in the other jurisdiction.

20 For purposes of this section, the term, active practice, means the applicant
21 accumulated at least one thousand five hundred hours of clinical experience.

22 **Section 22.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

23 **36-32-68. Applicants licensed out-of-state--Temporary license.**

24 If a professional counselor licensed in another state or territory of the United States
25 has not passed the national examination required by the board for licensure under § 36-
26 32-67, the board may provide the applicant with a temporary license to practice for up to
27 ninety days, if the applicant demonstrates that:

28 (1) The applicant is currently licensed as a professional counselor or professional
29 counselor--mental health and has been under the jurisdiction of the licensing
30 authority in the other jurisdiction for at least three years before the time of
31 submitting an application to the board;

32 (2) The applicant is in good standing with the licensing authority in the other
33 jurisdiction;

1 (3) The applicant has been in active practice during the three-year period before the
2 time of submitting an application to the board; and

3 (4) The applicant has no record of unprofessional conduct or pending disciplinary
4 complaints in the other jurisdiction.

5 For purposes of this section, the term, active practice, means at least one thousand
6 five hundred hours of clinical experience.

7 An applicant for a temporary license shall submit an application on a form approved
8 by the board, along with the application fee and the temporary license fee prescribed by
9 the board in accordance with § 36-32-92. The board shall issue a temporary license as a
10 professional counselor or professional counselor--mental health to an applicant who meets
11 the requirements of this section and pays the required fee. A temporary license
12 automatically expires upon the applicant's passage of the required national examination
13 or at the conclusion of the term for which the temporary license was issued, whichever
14 occurs first. A temporary license may only be renewed once.

15 **Section 23.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

16 **36-32-69. Person practicing under temporary license--Board supervision**
17 **and discipline.**

18 Any person practicing under a temporary license is subject to supervision and
19 discipline by the board in the same manner as any other licensee under this chapter. A
20 person practicing under a temporary license is under the jurisdiction of the board.

21 **Section 24.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

22 **36-32-70. Change of name or address--Notice to board.**

23 A licensee shall furnish the board with updated information within thirty days upon
24 a change in the licensee's name, place of employment, or place of business.

25 **Section 25.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

26 **36-32-71. Term of license.**

27 A license issued under this chapter, other than a temporary license, is valid until
28 November thirtieth of the next even-numbered year following the date of issuance. A
29 license expires automatically unless the license is renewed.

30 **Section 26.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-72. Renewal of license.**

2 Any licensee holding a valid license under this chapter may renew that license by
3 submitting an application for renewal before the date of expiration, paying the required
4 renewal fee, and providing proof of compliance with the continuing education
5 requirements prescribed by the board. If a licensee fails to renew a license on or before
6 the thirtieth day of November in an even-numbered year, the license is automatically
7 suspended.

8 The board shall notify the licensee that a renewal application has not been received
9 by the board and that the licensee may not practice counseling. Any person who submits
10 a license renewal application and provides proof of compliance with the continuing
11 education requirements set by the board within thirty days after the expiration date of the
12 license may be granted a license renewal.

13 **Section 27.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

14 **36-32-73. Continuing education for license renewal.**

15 Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person licensed under this chapter
16 shall complete at least forty hours of continuing education every two years in a manner
17 and with an instructor approved by the board.

18 Any person whose initial license is granted for a period of less than two years shall,
19 during that initial licensure period, complete a prorated number of hours of continuing
20 education, in a manner and with an instructor approved by the board.

21 The required continuing education hours may be obtained through electronic
22 means. The board may extend or waive the continuing education requirements for a
23 licensee upon a showing of good cause, prior to the expiration of the license.

24 **Section 28.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

25 **36-32-74. Inactive license--Reactivation.**

26 The board may place a license on inactive status at the request of the licensee and
27 the payment of a fee prescribed by the board. An inactive license expires four years after
28 the date of issuance. An inactive license may be reactivated by payment of the license
29 renewal fee and proof of having completed at least forty hours of continuing education
30 during the two-year period immediately preceding the reactivation request. If a license is
31 not reactivated before expiration, all provisions applicable to an applicant for licensure
32 also apply in order for the license to be restored to active status.

1 Any license on inactive status as of July 1, 2020, expires on November 30, 2022,
2 unless the licensee meets the requirements for reactivation before that time.

3 **Section 29.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

4 **36-32-75. Expired license--Reactivation.**

5 An expired license may be reactivated within the four-year period following the
6 expiration of the license, if the applicant:

- 7 (1) Pays any applicable renewal fees required for the period of expiration;
8 (2) Provides proof of any continuing education required for the period of expiration;
9 and
10 (3) Provides proof of passing a national examination approved by the board after the
11 date the license expired.

12 **Section 30.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

13 **36-32-76. Inapplicability of chapter to certain activities and services.**

14 The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the activities and services of a person
15 practicing counseling as part of that person's duties if the person is:

- 16 (1) Licensed or certified under this title and acting in a manner consistent with state
17 law regarding the scope of practice;
18 (2) Employed by a school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning
19 and is engaged primarily in the education of students;
20 (3) Employed by a federal, state, county, or local governmental institution or agency
21 and performing the duties for which the person is employed;
22 (4) Employed by a licensed health care facility, an accredited prevention or treatment
23 facility, a community support provider, a nonprofit mental health center, or a
24 licensed or registered child welfare agency;
25 (5) A member of the clergy and acting in a ministerial capacity, if the activity is within
26 the scope of the person's regular or specialized duties; or
27 (6) A student enrolled in a recognized program of study leading to a counseling degree,
28 if that student practices only under the direct supervision of a counselor educator
29 or a counselor licensed under this chapter.

30 **Section 31.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-77. Client's violent behavior--Duty to warn.**

2 No cause of action may arise against any licensed professional counselor or licensed
3 professional counselor--mental health for failing to warn of or protect others from a client's
4 threatened behaviors or for failing to predict, warn or protect others from a client's violent
5 behavior except if the client has communicated to the professional counselor or
6 professional counselor--mental health a serious threat of physical violence against an
7 identifiable victim. The duty to warn or to take reasonable precautions to provide
8 protection from violent behavior arises only under the limited circumstances specified in
9 this section.

10 **Section 32.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

11 **36-32-78. Privileged information--Exceptions.**

12 No licensee or an employee of a licensee may disclose information that was
13 acquired from any person consulting the licensee in a professional capacity that was
14 necessary to render services in a professional capacity, except:

15 (1) If mandated by state law or authorized under the Health Insurance Portability and
16 Accountability Act of 1996, as amended to January 1, 2020;

17 (2) With the written consent of the person or, in the case of the person's death or
18 disability, with the written consent of a personal representative, a person
19 authorized to sue on the person's behalf, or the beneficiary of an insurance policy
20 related to the person's life, health, or physical condition;

21 (3) If the information is necessary to prevent or mitigate a serious and imminent threat
22 to the health or safety of a person or to the public and the disclosure is made to a
23 person reasonably able to prevent or mitigate the threat, including the target of
24 the threat;

25 (4) If the licensed professional counselor or professional counselor--mental health is a
26 party defendant to a civil, criminal, or disciplinary action arising from the
27 counselor's professional capacity, in which case any waiver of the privilege
28 accorded by this section is limited to that action;

29 (5) If the client is a defendant in a criminal proceeding and the use of the privilege
30 would violate the defendant's right to a compulsory process or right to present
31 testimony and evidence; or

32 (6) If the person waives the privilege by bringing charges against the licensee.

33 **Section 33.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-79. Testimony by counselor--Alimony or divorce action.**

2 If both parties to a marriage have obtained counseling from a licensed professional
3 counselor or a licensed professional counselor--mental health, the counselor may not
4 testify in an alimony or divorce action concerning information acquired in the course of
5 the therapeutic relationship. This section does not apply to custody actions.

6 **Section 34.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

7 **36-32-80. Complaints--Investigation--Dismissal--Hearing--Appeal.**

8 The board shall receive complaints regarding any person licensed under this
9 chapter. A record of each complaint shall be maintained by the board. An investigation
10 shall be conducted by a member, agent, or an appointee of the board to determine
11 whether the alleged violation has been committed. The investigator, if a member of the
12 board, may dismiss a complaint if it appears to the member, either with or without
13 consulting the board, that no violation has been committed. If the investigator is an agent
14 or an appointee of the board, dismissal of the complaint may only be made by the board
15 president. Any disposition agreed upon between the investigator and the licensee or
16 permit holder shall be made known to and approved by the board.

17 If the complaint is not dismissed and a disposition is not agreed upon, the
18 investigator may request that the board set a date for a hearing on the complaint. Any
19 disciplinary proceeding held under the provisions of this chapter shall be conducted in
20 accordance with chapter 1-26. Any decision of the board entered in a contested proceeding
21 may be appealed to the circuit court within thirty days. A license or permit shall remain in
22 effect during the pendency of an appeal, unless suspended under§ 36-32-86.

23 **Section 35.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

24 **36-32-81. Inspection of premises--Purposes.**

25 Upon receiving a complaint regarding the health or safety of any patient or the
26 public, any authorized board member, officer, agent, or employee may enter and inspect,
27 during business hours, any place where counseling is practiced for the purpose of
28 enforcing this chapter. Refusal to allow an inspection may constitute unprofessional or
29 dishonorable conduct.

30 **Section 36.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-82. Discovery--Evidence in contested cases--Civil actions.**

2 Testimony or documentary evidence of any kind obtained during the investigation
3 of a complaint is not subject to discovery or disclosure under chapter 15-6 or any other
4 provision of law and is not admissible as evidence in any legal proceeding, unless the
5 complaint becomes a contested case under chapter 1-26. No person who has participated
6 in the investigation of a complaint may testify as an expert witness or be compelled to
7 testify for any party in any civil action, if the subject matter of the complaint investigated
8 is a basis for the civil action.

9 **Section 37.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

10 **36-32-83. Revocation of license--Grounds.**

11 A license or permit may be suspended, revoked, or canceled if:
12 (1) The licensee or permit holder is guilty of fraud in the practice of counseling or of
13 fraud or deceit in the licensee's admission to the practice of counseling;
14 (2) The licensee or permit holder has been convicted during the past five years of a
15 felony, or of any crime which, if committed in this state would constitute a felony;
16 (3) The licensee or permit holder is engaged in the practice of counseling under a false
17 or assumed name and has not registered that name under chapter 37-11, or is
18 impersonating another practitioner having a like or different name;
19 (4) The licensee or permit holder is addicted to the habitual use of intoxicating liquors,
20 narcotics, or stimulants, to an extent that incapacitates the licensee from the
21 performance of professional duties;
22 (5) The physical or mental condition of the licensee or permit holder is determined by
23 a competent health care provider to be at risk of jeopardizing or endangering those
24 who seek services from the licensee. A majority of the board may demand an
25 examination of the licensee or permit holder at the board's expense. Failure of the
26 licensee or permit holder to submit to the examination is grounds for the immediate
27 suspension of the license or permit;
28 (6) The licensee or permit holder obtained or attempted to obtain a license, certificate,
29 permit, or renewal through means of bribery or fraudulent representation;
30 (7) The licensee or permit holder knowingly made a false statement in connection with
31 any application under this chapter;
32 (8) The licensee or permit holder knowingly made a false statement on any form
33 required by the board in accordance with this chapter or any rules promulgated
34 thereunder;

- 1 (9) The licensee or permit holder has violated any provision of this chapter or any rule
2 promulgated thereunder; or
3 (10) The licensee or permit holder has been found to be in violation of ethical standards
4 adopted by the board.

5 **Section 38.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

6 **36-32-84. Revocation proceedings--Initiation.**

7 Proceedings for the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a license or permit
8 may be initiated if the board has information that a person may have committed any
9 misconduct as provided in § 36-32-81 or is guilty of gross incompetence or unprofessional
10 or dishonorable conduct.

11 **Section 39.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

12 **36-32-85. Violation of chapter--Sanctions.**

13 If the board finds that a person, entity, licensee, or permit holder has violated any
14 provision of this chapter or any rule promulgated thereunder, the board may:

- 15 (1) Revoke a license or permit for an indefinite period;
16 (2) Suspend a license or permit for a specific or an indefinite period;
17 (3) Place a limit or a condition on a license or permit;
18 (4) Issue a censure or a letter of reprimand;
19 (5) Place a licensee or permit holder on probationary status and require that the
20 licensee or permit holder report regularly to the board on the matters that are the
21 basis for probation, limit the licensee's or permit holder's practice to areas
22 prescribed by the board, and require professional education until a satisfactory
23 degree of skill has been attained in those areas that are the basis of the probation.
24 The board may withdraw the probation if the board finds the deficiencies that
25 required disciplinary action have been remedied;
26 (6) Impose any other sanction that the board determines is appropriate;
27 (7) Impose a fee to reimburse the board in an amount equal to some or all of the costs
28 incurred for the investigation and proceedings resulting in disciplinary action, or
29 for the issuance of a cease and desist order; or
30 (8) Deny an application for a license or permit.

31 **Section 40.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-86. Suspension of license or registration--Grounds--Hearing--Appeal.**

2 The board may suspend a license or permit in advance of a final adjudication or
3 during the appeals process if the board finds that allowing a licensee or permit holder to
4 continue practicing would represent a clear and immediate or imminent danger to public
5 health and safety. A person whose license or permit is suspended under this section is
6 entitled to a hearing before the board within twenty days after the effective date of the
7 suspension. The suspension may subsequently be appealed to the circuit court in
8 accordance with chapter 1-26.

9 **Section 41.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

10 **36-32-87. Conformity of revocation proceedings--Appeal.**

11 All proceedings regarding the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a license
12 or permit shall conform to the procedure set forth in chapter 1-26.

13 A party may appeal any act, ruling, or decision regarding a license, in accordance
14 with chapter 1-26.

15 **Section 42.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

16 **36-32-88. Reinstatement of license.**

17 At the board's discretion, the board may reinstate or issue a new license or permit.
18 The board may require the applicant to pay all costs of the proceedings resulting in the
19 suspension, revocation, reinstatement, or issuance of a license or permit.

20 **Section 43.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

21 **36-32-89. Violations reported to law enforcement officials--Prosecution of**
22 **violations.**

23 The board shall investigate and report an alleged violation of any provision of this
24 chapter. The board may employ special counsel subject to the supervision, control, and
25 direction of the attorney general to assist in the prosecution of alleged criminal violations
26 and may expend the necessary funds for this purpose.

27 **Section 44.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-90. Action for injunction.**

2 Any person who violates any provision in this chapter may be enjoined from any
3 further violation at the suit of the state's attorney of the county where the violation
4 occurred. In the alternative, suit may be brought by any resident of this state.

5 **Section 45.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

6 **36-32-91. Counseling services through electronic means--Requirements.**

7 Any person who practices counseling through electronic means and provides
8 counseling services to a patient located in this state is engaged in the practice of
9 counseling in this state, regardless of the provider's physical location. Any service provided
10 by a person through electronic means shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and
11 rules promulgated thereunder.

12 **Section 46.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

13 **36-32-92. Fees--Promulgation of rules.**

14 The board shall promulgate rules in accordance with chapter 1-26, to establish the
15 following:

- 16 (1) An application fee, not to exceed two hundred dollars;
17 (2) A biennial renewal fee, not to exceed five hundred dollars;
18 (3) A duplicate license fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars;
19 (4) An inactive license fee, not to exceed one hundred dollars;
20 (5) A temporary license fee, not to exceed two hundred dollars; and
21 (6) A license verification fee, not to exceed twenty-five dollars.

22 **Section 47.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

23 **36-32-93. Professional counselors--Continuation of licenses.**

24 Any person licensed as a professional counselor under § 36-32-13 before June 30,
25 2020, is licensed as a professional counselor pursuant to §§ 36-32-48 to 36-32-92,
26 inclusive.

27 **Section 48.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

1 **36-32-94. Professional counselor--mental health--Continuation of licenses.**

2 Any person licensed as a professional counselor--mental health under § 36-32-42
3 before June 30, 2020, is licensed as a professional counselor--mental health pursuant to
4 §§ 36-32-48 to 36-32-92, inclusive.

5 **Section 49.** That § 34-52-2 be AMENDED:

6 **34-52-2. Treatment of patients through telehealth--Requirements.**

7 Any health care professional treating a patient in the state through telehealth shall
8 be:

- 9 (1) Fully licensed to practice in the state or employed by a licensed health care facility,
10 an accredited prevention or treatment facility, a community support provider, a
11 nonprofit mental health center, or a licensed child welfare agency under ~~§ 36-32-~~
12 ~~42~~ § 36-32-76; and
- 13 (2) Subject to any rule adopted by the applicable South Dakota licensing body.

14 Consultation between a resident health care professional and a nonresident health care
15 professional under this chapter is governed by § 36-2-9.

16 **Section 50.** That §§ 36-32-1 to 36-32-46, inclusive, be REPEALED.