

By Mr. Miceli of Wilmington, petition of James R. Miceli for legislation to provide for the voluntary certification of professional clinical pastoral counselors. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL PASTORAL COUNSELORS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 88 of Chapter 13 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1992 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out in line 4 the word "eleven" and inserting in place thereof the word:— thirteen.

SECTION 2. Section 89 of Chapter 13 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out in line 3 the word "eight" and inserting in place thereof the word:— ten.

SECTION 3. Said section 89 of Chapter 13 is hereby further amended by inserting in line 7 after the words "educational psychologists" the following words:— two of whom shall be professional clinical pastoral counselors.

SECTION 4. Section 163 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Approved Continuing Education" the following new definitions:—

"Professional clinical pastoral counseling associate", An individual certified under this chapter who renders or offers professional pastoral counseling services only under qualified supervision in accordance with rules adopted by the Board.

"Professional clinical pastoral counselor", A minister who receives fees from the practice of pastoral counseling.

10 “Professional clinical pastoral counseling”, To render or offer  
11 for a fee or other compensation professional pastoral counseling  
12 services, whether to the general public or to organizations, either  
13 public or private; to individuals, single or in groups; to couples,  
14 married or in relationships; and to families.

15 “Professional clinical pastoral counseling services”, The appli-  
16 cation of pastoral care and pastoral counseling principals and pro-  
17 cedures for a fee or other compensation with the purpose of  
18 understanding, anticipating, or influencing the behavior of indi-  
19 viduals in order to assist in their attainment of maximum personal  
20 growth, optimal work, marital, family, church, school, social, and  
21 interpersonal relationships; and healthy personal adaptation. The  
22 application of pastoral care and pastoral psychotherapy principles  
23 and procedures includes sustaining, healing, shepherding, nur-  
24 turing, guiding, and reconciling; interviewing, counseling, and  
25 using psychotherapy, using, preventing, and ameliorating difficul-  
26 ties in living; and resolving interpersonal and social conflict.  
27 Teaching, writing, the giving of public speeches or lectures, and  
28 research concerned with pastoral care and counseling principals  
29 are not included in professional pastoral counseling services  
30 within the meaning of this article.

31 “Minister”, A person who has been called, elected or otherwise  
32 authorized by a church, denomination or faith group through ordi-  
33 nation, consecration or equivalent means, to exercise within and  
34 on behalf of the denomination or faith group specific religious  
35 leadership and service that furthers its purpose and mission and  
36 that differs from the religious service of the laity of the denomi-  
37 nation or faith group by affirmation of the faith group that a  
38 person is or will be performing a valid ministry and has presented  
39 evidence of having the special education, experience, and skills  
40 necessary to perform that ministry in a specialized setting.

41 “Pastoral counseling”, used interchangeably with pastoral  
42 psychotherapy to mean a process in which a pastoral counselor  
43 utilizes insights and principles derived from the disciplines of  
44 theology and the behavioral sciences to help persons achieve  
45 wholeness and health.

46 “Pastoral psychotherapy”, The use of pastoral care and pastoral  
47 counseling in a professional relationship to assist a person in  
48 modifying feelings, attitudes, and behavior that are intellectually,

49 socially, emotionally, or spiritually maladjustive, ineffectual, or  
50 that otherwise contribute to difficulties in living.

1 SECTION 5. Section 164 of said Chapter 112 of the General  
2 Laws is hereby amended by adding at the end of the first para-  
3 graph the following sentence:— (5) professional clinical pastoral  
4 counselors.

1 SECTION 6. Section 165 of said Chapter 112 is hereby  
2 amended by inserting in line 3 after the words “health counselor;”  
3 the following words:— professional clinical pastoral counselors.

1 SECTION 7. Said Section 165 of said Chapter 112 is hereby  
2 further amended by inserting at the end thereof the following  
3 paragraph:—

4 The Board may issue a license to an applicant as a professional  
5 clinical pastoral counselor; provided that each such applicant in  
6 addition to complying with clauses (1) (2), and (4) of the first  
7 paragraph shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that  
8 such applicant:

9 (1) be at least twenty-one years of age;

10 (2) has successfully received a master’s of divinity or higher  
11 degree, or its equivalent, from an accredited educational institution;

12 (3) has received a master’s or doctoral degree in pastoral coun-  
13 seling, or its equivalent, based on a planned and directed program  
14 of studies in pastoral counseling from an accredited educational  
15 institution;

16 (4) has completed satisfactorily one unit of full-time clinical  
17 pastoral education in a program accredited by the Association of  
18 Clinical Pastoral Education, or its equivalent;

19 (5) has completed at least one thousand three hundred and  
20 seventy-five hours of pastoral counseling while receiving a  
21 minimum of two hundred and fifty hours of supervision during  
22 those hours of pastoral counseling;

23 (6) has completed three years of full-time work as a rabbi,  
24 priest, minister, or religious leader, or its equivalent; has been  
25 ordained, or its equivalent as determined by the applicants group,  
26 and has been endorsed to function as a pastoral counselor.

27 The Board may issue a license to an applicant as a professional  
28 clinical pastoral counseling associate; providing that each such

29 applicant in addition to complying with classes (1), (2), and (4) of  
30 the first paragraph shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board  
31 that such applicant:

32 (1) be at least twenty-one years of age;

33 (2) has successfully received a master's degree of divinity or  
34 higher degree, or its equivalent, from an accredited educational  
35 institution;

36 (3) has not within the preceding six months failed an examina-  
37 tion given by the board;

38 (4) has completed satisfactorily one unit of full-time clinical  
39 pastoral education in a program accredited by the Association of  
40 Clinical Pastoral Education, or its equivalent;

41 (5) has completed at least three hundred and seventy-five hours  
42 of pastoral counseling including a minimum of one hundred and  
43 twenty-five hours of supervision of those pastoral counseling  
44 hours;

45 (6) is a recognized member of a denomination or local faith  
46 group that recognizes the applicant's status as a rabbi, priest, min-  
47 ister, religious leader, or authorized equivalent; has completed  
48 three years of full-time work as a rabbi, priest, minister or reli-  
49 gious leader or equivalent; has been ordained or its equivalent as  
50 determined by the applicant's denomination or faith group, and  
51 has been endorsed to function as a pastoral counselor.

1 SECTION 8. Section 90 of Chapter 13 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after the words "that profession" the  
3 following sentence:— Duties of the standards committee for the  
4 professional clinical pastoral counselors shall include the hearing  
5 of oral presentations to be taken into consideration in addition to  
6 performance on written examinations for the purpose of licensure  
7 for professional clinical pastoral counselors.