

HOUSE No. 5515

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 1, 1994.

The committee on Health Care, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5243) of James R. Miceli and Patrick C. Guerriero for legislation to provide for the voluntary certification of professional clinical pastoral counselors, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5515) ought to pass.

For the committee,

CARMEN H. BUELL.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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:

1 SECTION 1. Section 88 of Chapter 13 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1992 Official Edition, is hereby amended by strik-
3 ing out in line 4 the word “eleven” and inserting in place thereof
4 the word:— thirteen.

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

1 SECTION 3. Said section 89 of Chapter 13 is hereby further
2 amended by inserting in line 7 after the words “educational psy-
3 chologists” the following words:— two of whom shall be profes-
4 sional clinical pastoral counselors.

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

4 “Professional clinical pastoral counseling associate”, An individ-
5 ual certified under this chapter who renders or offers professional
6 pastoral counseling services only under qualified supervision in
7 accordance with rules adopted by the Board.

8 “Professional clinical pastoral counselor”, A minister who
9 receives fees from the practice of pastoral counseling.

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

15 “Professional clinical pastoral counseling services”, The applica-
16 tion of pastoral care and pastoral counseling principals and proce-
17 dures for a fee or other compensation with the purpose of under-
18 standing, anticipating, or influencing the behavior of individuals in
19 order to assist in their attainment of maximum personal growth, opti-
20 mal work, marital, family, church, school, social, and interpersonal
21 relationships; and healthy personal adaptation. The application of
22 pastoral care and pastoral psychotherapy principles and procedures
23 includes sustaining, healing, shepherding, nurturing, guiding, and
24 reconciling; interviewing, counseling, and using psychotherapy,
25 using, preventing, and ameliorating difficulties in living; and resolv-
26 ing interpersonal and social conflict. Teaching, writing, the giving of
27 public speeches or lectures, and research concerned with pastoral
28 care and counseling principals are not included in professional pas-
29 toral counseling services within the meaning of this article.

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

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

45 “Pastoral psychotherapy”, The use of pastoral care and pastoral
46 counseling in a professional relationship to assist a person in modi-
47 fying feelings, attitudes, and behavior that are intellectually, socially,
48 emotionally, or spiritually maladjustive, ineffectual, or that other-
49 wise 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 paragraph
3 the following sentence:—

4 (5) professional clinical pastoral 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 para-
7 graph shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that such
8 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 pas-
17 toral 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 seventy-
20 five hours of pastoral counseling while receiving a minimum of two
21 hundred and fifty hours of supervision during those hours of pas-
22 toral counseling;

23 (6) has completed three years of full-time work as a rabbi, priest,
24 minister, or religious leader, or its equivalent; has been ordained, or
25 its equivalent as determined by the applicants group, and has been
26 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 pas-
39 toral 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 hours;

44 (6) is a recognized member of a denomination or local faith
45 group that recognizes the applicant's status as a rabbi, priest, minis-
46 ter, religious leader, or authorized equivalent; has completed three
47 years of full-time work as a rabbi, priest, minister or religious leader
48 or equivalent; has been ordained or its equivalent as determined by
49 the applicant's denomination or faith group, and has been endorsed
50 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: —

4 Duties of the standards committee for the professional clinical
5 pastoral counselors shall include the hearing of oral presentations to
6 be taken into consideration in addition to performance on written
7 examinations for the purpose of licensure for professional clinical
8 pastoral counselors.

The Constitution of the United States

ARTICLE I

The legislative power herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

Section 5

Section 6

Section 7

Section 8

Section 9

Section 10

Section 11

Section 12

