

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to HB 1050:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to licensing provisions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and  
3 marriage and family therapists, so as to revise a definition; to change certain education  
4 requirements for licensure as a professional counselor or associate professional counselor;  
5 to provide for privileged communications with clients; to provide for related matters; to  
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 licensing provisions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and  
11 family therapists, is amended by revising paragraph (20) of Code Section 43-10A-3, relating  
12 to definitions, to read as follows:

13 "(20) 'Supervisor' means a person who meets the licensure and other requirements  
14 established by the standards committee for that specialty which is being supervised ~~and~~  
15 ~~who is either licensed under this article or is a psychiatrist or a psychologist."~~

H. B. 1050 (SUB)

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said article is further amended by revising of Code Section 43-10A-11, relating to  
 18 requirements for licensure as an associate professional counselor or professional counselor,  
 19 as follows:

20 "43-10A-11.

21 (a) The education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in professional  
 22 counseling are as follows:

23 (1) For licensure as an associate professional counselor:

24 (A) A minimum of an earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited  
 25 program in clinical counseling or counseling psychology that consists of at least 60  
 26 semester hours or ~~80~~ 90 quarter hours with an approved supervised internship or  
 27 practicum that is primarily counseling in content as a part of the degree program; and  
 28 (B) Registration with the board of an acceptable contract for obtaining the post-degree  
 29 experience under direction and supervision that is required for licensure as a  
 30 professional counselor.

31 (2) For licensure as a professional counselor:

32 (A)(i) A minimum of an earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited  
 33 program in clinical counseling or counseling psychology that consists of at least 60  
 34 semester hours or ~~80~~ 90 quarter hours with an approved supervised internship or  
 35 practicum that is primarily counseling in content as a part of the degree program; and  
 36 (ii)(B) Two years of post-degree experience under direction and supervision in a work  
 37 setting acceptable to the board; ~~or~~  
 38 (B) ~~A doctoral degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is~~  
 39 ~~primarily counseling in content and requires at least one year of supervised internship~~  
 40 ~~in a work setting acceptable to the board.~~

41 (b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this Code section, work settings acceptable to the  
42 board may include, but are not limited to, educational, rehabilitation, career development,  
43 mental health, or community organizations.

44 (c) Only a person licensed as an associate professional counselor may use the title  
45 'associate professional counselor' or 'licensed associate professional counselor.' Associate  
46 professional counselors shall practice professional counseling only under direction and  
47 supervision and only for a period not to exceed five years while obtaining the post-degree  
48 experience required for licensure as a professional counselor."

49 **SECTION 3.**

50 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

51 "43-10A-16.1.

52 The confidential relations and communications between a client and a licensed professional  
53 counselor, a licensed associate professional counselor, a master's social worker, a licensed  
54 clinical social worker, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a licensed associate  
55 marriage and family therapist, are placed upon the same basis as those provided by law  
56 between attorney and client; and nothing in this article shall be construed to require any  
57 such privileged communications to be disclosed."

58 **SECTION 4.**

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