

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to behavioral health; requiring an alternate means for an applicant for certain licenses and certificates to submit official transcripts if certain conditions are satisfied; requiring the adoption of regulations that authorize the remote supervision of certain persons; requiring licensing boards that regulate various professions relating to behavioral health to report certain information; revising provisions governing certain licenses by endorsement; providing for the issuance of a license as a master social worker to an applicant who meets certain qualifications; authorizing a master social worker or independent social worker to engage in certain activities; prescribing required documentation for an applicant for a license to engage in social work who is the graduate of a foreign college or university; authorizing the Board of Examiners for Social Workers to place a license to engage in social work on inactive status and refuse to issue a license under certain circumstances; requiring an employee of the Board to submit a complaint against a licensee to the Board under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from engaging in the unlicensed practice of social work; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law establishes educational requirements for the issuance of: (1) a license as a psychologist, clinical professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, marriage and family therapist intern, clinical professional counselor intern, social worker, clinical social worker, independent social worker, clinical alcohol and drug counselor, clinical alcohol and drug counselor intern or alcohol and drug counselor; (2) a registration as a psychological intern, psychological assistant or psychological trainee; or (3) a certificate as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor intern, alcohol and drug counselor, alcohol and drug counselor intern, problem gambling counselor or problem gambling counselor intern. (NRS 641.170, 641.226, 641A.220, 641A.231, 641A.287, 641A.288, 641B.220-641B.240, 641C.330, 641C.340, 641C.350, 641C.390, 641C.420, 641C.430, 641C.440) If the Board of Psychological Examiners, the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors, the Board of Examiners for Social Workers or the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors requires the submission of official transcripts as proof of those educational qualifications, **sections 2, 5, 11.3 and 22.5** of this bill require those boards to provide an alternate means for an applicant to submit official transcripts if: (1) the college or university from which the applicant graduated has closed or has merged with another institution; and (2) the provision of official transcripts by ordinary means is not available or possible.

Existing law requires the Board of Psychological Examiners, the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional



Counselors, the Board of Examiners for Social Workers and the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors to adopt regulations prescribing standards concerning the electronic supervision of persons obtaining supervised experience for licensure, including interns. (NRS 641.100, 641A.160, 641B.160, 641C.200) **Sections 2.5, 5.5, 11.7 and 23.5** of this bill require those boards to adopt regulations authorizing remote supervision, including electronic supervision, and prescribing standards for such remote supervision.

Existing law requires the Board of Psychological Examiners, the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors, the Board of Examiners for Social Workers and the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors to report certain information concerning investigations of misconduct and applications for licensure or certification to the Legislative Committee on Health Care. (NRS 641.145, 641A.183, 641B.165, 641C.230) **Sections 3, 6, 12 and 24** of this bill: (1) require those licensing boards to submit those reports to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board; (2) require those reports to include certain information concerning applications for licensure or certification by endorsement; and (3) authorize the submission of those reports to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board in a written format.

Existing law authorizes the issuance of a license by endorsement as a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor, social worker, clinical social worker, independent social worker, clinical alcohol and drug counselor or alcohol and drug counselor, or a certificate by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor or problem gambling counselor, to a person who is licensed or certified, as applicable, in another jurisdiction of the United States and meets certain other requirements. (NRS 641.195, 641A.241, 641B.271, 641C.3305, 641C.355, 641C.395, 641C.432) Existing law: (1) prescribes similar requirements for the issuance of an expedited license or certificate, as applicable, by endorsement to practice in those professions to an applicant who is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran; and (2) authorizes the issuance of a provisional license to such an applicant before making a final decision. (NRS 641.196, 641A.242, 641B.272, 641C.3306, 641C.356, 641C.396, 641C.433) Existing law reduces certain fees for such applicants. (NRS 641.228, 641A.290, 641B.300, 641C.470) **Sections 3.6, 6.8, 17.5, 25.2-25.8 and 33.5** of this bill combine sections governing expedited licensure or certification by endorsement for a general applicant with sections governing licensure or certification by endorsement for an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran. The combined provisions: (1) authorize the issuance of a license or certificate by endorsement when the statutory requirements are met; (2) revise various requirements for the issuance of licenses and certificates by endorsement; and (3) authorize the issuance of a provisional license or certificate for any reason. **Sections 3.3, 6.2-6.6 and 24.5** of this bill make conforming changes which remove references to repealed sections. **Sections 4.5, 7.5, 20 and 25.9** of this bill make conforming changes so that active members of, or the spouses of active members of, the Armed Forces of the United States, veterans and the surviving spouses of veterans continue to receive reductions in fees.

Existing law authorizes the Board of Examiners for Social Workers to issue a license as: (1) a social worker to an applicant who possesses a baccalaureate degree or master's degree in social work and passes an examination; (2) an independent social worker to an applicant who possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work, completes at least 3,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate social work and



passes an examination; and (3) a clinical social worker to an applicant who possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work, completes at least 3,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate clinical social work and passes an examination. (NRS 641B.220, 641B.230, 641B.240) **Section 9** of this bill additionally authorizes the Board to issue a license as a master social worker to an applicant who possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work and passes an examination. **Sections 9 and 22** of this bill authorize a master social worker to engage in independent social work or clinical social work as part of an approved internship program to complete the requirements for licensure as an independent or clinical social worker, as applicable. **Section 9** additionally authorizes a master social worker to supervise other persons engaging in the practice of social work. **Section 20** of this bill establishes the maximum fees that the Board is authorized to charge and collect for the issuance and renewal of a license as a master social worker. **Sections 1, 13, 26 and 28-31** of this bill make conforming changes to ensure that a master social worker is treated similarly to other types of social worker in various circumstances.

Sections 9, 10, 14-16 and 18 of this bill authorize the Board of Examiners for Social Workers to issue a license as a social worker, master social worker, independent social worker, or clinical social worker, or a provisional license as a social worker to an applicant who has graduated from a foreign college or university if the applicant submits certain documentation concerning his or her degree and meets the other requirements for licensure. **Section 11** of this bill authorizes the Board to put a license on inactive status for not more than 5 years upon the application of a licensee who is in good standing. **Sections 11 and 19** of this bill exempt a licensee who holds an inactive license from the requirement to complete continuing education, and **sections 11 and 22** of this bill prohibit an inactive licensee from engaging in the practice of social work. **Section 17** of this bill revises the conditions under which the Board is authorized to refuse to issue a license. **Section 21** of this bill requires an employee of the Board who is aware that grounds for disciplinary action may exist against a person practicing social work to submit a complaint to the Board.

Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for a person to engage in: (1) the independent practice of social work unless he or she is licensed as an independent social worker or a clinical social worker; or (2) the clinical practice of social work unless he or she is licensed as a clinical social worker. (NRS 641B.505) **Section 22** of this bill additionally makes it a misdemeanor to engage in the practice of social work unless a person is licensed as an associate in social work, social worker, master social worker, independent social worker or clinical social worker. **Sections 15 and 22** of this bill authorize an independent social worker to engage in clinical social work as part of an approved internship program to complete the requirements for licensure as a clinical social worker.

Existing law authorizes a clinical social worker to engage in the practice of counseling persons with alcohol or other substance use disorders and counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling with the authorization of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers. (NRS 641C.130) **Section 23** of this bill additionally authorizes a person who is licensed as a master social worker or independent social worker and engaging in clinical social work as part of an approved internship program to engage in such counseling with the authorization of the Board.



EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~formitted-material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 629.031 is hereby amended to read as follows:
629.031 Except as otherwise provided by a specific statute:

1. “Provider of health care” means:
 - (a) A physician licensed pursuant to chapter 630, 630A or 633 of NRS;
 - (b) A physician assistant;
 - (c) A dentist;
 - (d) A licensed nurse;
 - (e) A person who holds a license as an attendant or who is certified as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic pursuant to chapter 450B of NRS;
 - (f) A dispensing optician;
 - (g) An optometrist;
 - (h) A speech-language pathologist;
 - (i) An audiologist;
 - (j) A practitioner of respiratory care;
 - (k) A licensed physical therapist;
 - (l) An occupational therapist;
 - (m) A podiatric physician;
 - (n) A licensed psychologist;
 - (o) A licensed marriage and family therapist;
 - (p) A licensed clinical professional counselor;
 - (q) A music therapist;
 - (r) A chiropractor;
 - (s) An athletic trainer;
 - (t) A perfusionist;
 - (u) A doctor of Oriental medicine in any form;
 - (v) A medical laboratory director or technician;
 - (w) A pharmacist;
 - (x) A licensed dietitian;
 - (y) An associate in social work, a social worker, *a master social worker*, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS;
 - (z) An alcohol and drug counselor or a problem gambling counselor who is certified pursuant to chapter 641C of NRS;
 - (aa) An alcohol and drug counselor or a clinical alcohol and drug counselor who is licensed pursuant to chapter 641C of NRS; or



(bb) A medical facility as the employer of any person specified in this subsection.

2. For the purposes of NRS 629.400 to 629.490, inclusive, the term includes:

(a) A person who holds a license or certificate issued pursuant to chapter 631 of NRS; and

(b) A person who holds a current license or certificate to practice his or her respective discipline pursuant to the applicable provisions of law of another state or territory of the United States.

Sec. 2. Chapter 641 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

If the Board requires an applicant for a license or registration pursuant to this chapter to submit official transcripts as proof of his or her educational qualifications, the Board must provide an alternate means for the applicant to submit official transcripts if:

- 1. The college or university from which the applicant graduated has closed or has merged with another institution; and*
- 2. The provision of official transcripts by ordinary means is not available or possible.*

Sec. 2.5. NRS 641.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.100 1. The Board shall adopt regulations : ~~{prescribing:}~~

(a) ~~{Uniform}~~ *Prescribing uniform* standards concerning the locations at which persons obtaining supervised experience that is required for licensure by the Board provide services;

(b) ~~{Standards concerning}~~ *Authorizing the remote supervision, including, without limitation, electronic supervision , of persons obtaining supervised experience that is required for licensure by the Board who are working at remote sites {;} and prescribing standards concerning such remote supervision; and*

(c) ~~{A}~~ *Prescribing a* manner by which the qualifications for the issuance or renewal of a license under the provisions of this chapter will be made available to the public such that those qualifications are clearly defined and easily understood.

2. The Board may make and promulgate any other rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter governing its procedure, the examination and licensure of applicants, the granting, refusal, revocation or suspension of licenses, the registration of persons as psychological assistants, psychological interns or psychological trainees and the practice of psychology.

3. On the date that the Board gives notice pursuant to NRS 233B.060 of its intent to adopt, amend or repeal a regulation, the Board shall submit the regulation to the Commission on Behavioral



Health for review. The Commission shall review the regulation and make recommendations to the Board concerning the advisability of adopting, amending or repealing the regulation and any changes that the Commission deems advisable.

Sec. 3. NRS 641.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.145 **1.** On or before February 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Legislative Committee on Health Care *and to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429* a report which must include:

~~1.]~~ **(a)** The number of complaints received, investigations completed, cases dismissed, cases settled and cases for which hearings were held within the immediately preceding calendar year;

~~and~~

~~—2.]~~ **(b)** The number of applications for the issuance or renewal of a license or registration received by the Board during the immediately preceding calendar year and the number of those applications for which the Board conducted additional review beyond the standard review regularly conducted by the Board ~~1.] ;~~ *and*

(c) *The number of applications for the issuance of a license by endorsement received by the Board pursuant to NRS 641.196 during the immediately preceding calendar year, the number of those applications that were denied and the reasons for denial.*

2. *The report submitted pursuant to this section to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429 may be submitted in a written format.*

Sec. 3.3. NRS 641.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.170 **1.** Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~641.195~~ ~~and~~ 641.196, each application for licensure as a psychologist must be accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(a) Is at least 21 years of age.

(b) Is of good moral character as determined by the Board.

(c) Has earned a doctorate in psychology from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board, or has other doctorate-level training from an accredited educational institution deemed equivalent by the Board in both subject matter and extent of training.

(d) Has at least 2 years of experience satisfactory to the Board, 1 year of which must be postdoctoral experience in accordance with the requirements established by regulations of the Board.



2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~641.195 and~~ 641.196, within 120 days after receiving an application and the accompanying evidence from an applicant, the Board shall:

(a) Evaluate the application and accompanying evidence and determine whether the applicant is qualified pursuant to this section for licensure; and

(b) Issue a written statement to the applicant of its determination.

3. The written statement issued to the applicant pursuant to subsection 2 must include:

(a) If the Board determines that the qualifications of the applicant are insufficient for licensure, a detailed explanation of the reasons for that determination.

(b) If the applicant for licensure as a psychologist has not earned a doctorate in psychology from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board and the Board determines that the doctorate-level training from an accredited educational institution is not equivalent in subject matter and extent of training, a detailed explanation of the reasons for that determination.

Sec. 3.6. NRS 641.196 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.196 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement as a psychologist to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant ~~is~~:

~~(a) Holds~~ **holds** a corresponding valid and unrestricted license as a psychologist in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States . ~~is; and~~

~~(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.~~

2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license as a psychologist; and

(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;



(b) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints in the manner provided in NRS 641.160;

(c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct;

(d) The fee prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641.228 for the issuance of an initial license; and

(e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement as a psychologist pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement as a psychologist to the applicant not later than ~~15~~

~~—(a) Forty five] 45 days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application. ~~15~~; or~~
~~—(b) Ten days after the Board receives a report on the applicant's background based on the submission of the applicant's fingerprints, whichever occurs later.]~~

4. A license by endorsement as a psychologist may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may *, for any reason,* grant a provisional license authorizing an applicant to practice as a psychologist in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~

Sec. 4. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 4.5. NRS 641.228 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.228 1. The Board shall charge and collect not more than the following fees respectively:

For the national examination, in addition to the actual cost to the Board of the examination	\$100
For any other examination required pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 641.180, in addition to the actual costs to the Board of the examination	100
For the issuance of an initial license.....	25



For the issuance of an initial license by endorsement	\$125
For the biennial renewal of a license of a psychologist.....	850
For the restoration of a license suspended for the nonpayment of the biennial fee for the renewal of a license.....	200
For the restoration of a license suspended for the nonsubmission of evidence to the Board of completion of the requirements for continuing education as required for the renewal of the license.....	200
For the registration of a firm, partnership or corporation which engages in or offers to engage in the practice of psychology	300
For the registration of a nonresident to practice as a consultant	100
For the initial registration of a psychological assistant, psychological intern or psychological trainee.....	250
For the renewal of a registration of a psychological assistant, psychological intern or psychological trainee.....	150

2. An applicant who passes the national examination and any other examination required pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 641.180 and who is eligible for a license as a psychologist shall pay the biennial fee for the renewal of a license, which must be prorated for the period from the date the license is issued to the end of the biennium.

3. ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4 and 5 and NRS 641.195, in~~ *In* addition to the fees set forth in subsection 1, the Board may charge and collect a fee for the expedited processing of a request or for any other incidental service it provides. The fee must not exceed the cost to provide the service.

4. ~~¶~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, if* an applicant submits an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to NRS ~~[641.195,]~~ *641.196*, the Board shall charge and collect:

(a) Not more than the fee specified in subsection 1 for the issuance of an initial license by endorsement; and



(b) The biennial fee for the renewal of a license, which must be prorated for the period from the date the license is issued to the end of the biennium.

5. If an ~~{applicant}~~ *active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran* submits an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to NRS 641.196, the Board shall collect not more than one-half of the fee set forth in subsection 1 for the initial issuance of the license by endorsement.

6. If an applicant submits an application for initial registration as a psychological assistant, psychological intern or psychological trainee pursuant to NRS 641.226 and the applicant has previously been registered as a psychological assistant, psychological intern or psychological trainee, the Board must waive the fee set forth in subsection 1 for the initial registration.

7. *As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.*

Sec. 5. Chapter 641A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

If the Board requires an applicant for a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor to submit official transcripts as proof of his or her educational qualifications, the Board must provide an alternate means for the applicant to submit official transcripts if:

1. *The college or university from which the applicant graduated has closed or has merged with another institution; and*
2. *The provision of official transcripts by ordinary means is not available or possible.*

Sec. 5.5. NRS 641A.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.160 1. The Board shall adopt regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter governing its procedure, the examination and licensing of applicants, the granting, refusal, revocation or suspension of licenses, and the practice of marriage and family therapy and the practice of clinical professional counseling as those practices apply to this chapter.

2. The regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must : ~~{prescribe:}~~

(a) ~~{Uniform}~~ *Prescribe uniform* standards concerning the locations at which interns provide services;

(b) ~~{Standards concerning}~~ *Authorize* the *remote supervision, including, without limitation,* electronic supervision , of interns



working at remote sites ~~[]~~ and *prescribe standards concerning such remote supervision; and*

(c) ~~[A]~~ *Prescribe a* manner by which the qualifications for the issuance or renewal of a license under the provisions of this chapter will be made available to the public such that those qualifications are clearly defined and easily understood.

3. On the date that the Board gives notice pursuant to NRS 233B.060 of its intent to adopt, amend or repeal a regulation, the Board shall submit the regulation to the Commission on Behavioral Health for review. The Commission shall review the regulation and make recommendations to the Board concerning the advisability of adopting, amending or repealing the regulation and any changes that the Commission deems advisable.

Sec. 6. NRS 641A.183 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.183 *1.* On or before February 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Legislative Committee on Health Care *and to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429* a report which must include:

~~[]~~ *(a)* The number of complaints received, investigations completed, cases dismissed, cases settled and cases for which hearings were held within the immediately preceding calendar year;

~~and~~

~~—2.]~~ *(b)* The number of applications for the issuance or renewal of a license received by the Board during the immediately preceding calendar year and the number of those applications for which the Board conducted additional review beyond the standard review regularly conducted by the Board ~~[]~~; *and*

(c) The number of applications for the issuance of a license by endorsement received by the Board pursuant to NRS 641A.242 during the immediately preceding calendar year, the number of those applications that were denied and the reasons for denial.

2. The report submitted pursuant to this section to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429 may be submitted in a written format.

Sec. 6.2. NRS 641A.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.220 Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~[641A.241 and]~~ 641A.242, each applicant for a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist must furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

1. Is at least 21 years of age;
2. Is of good moral character;



3. Has completed residency training in psychiatry from an accredited institution approved by the Board, has a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy, psychology or social work from an accredited institution approved by the Board or has completed other education and training which is deemed equivalent by the Board;

4. Has:

(a) At least 2 years of postgraduate experience in marriage and family therapy; and

(b) At least 3,000 hours of supervised experience in marriage and family therapy, of which at least 1,500 hours must consist of direct contact with clients; and

5. Holds an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution approved by the Board.

Sec. 6.4. NRS 641A.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.230 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and NRS ~~641A.241 and~~ 641A.242, each qualified applicant for a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist must pass a written examination given by the Board on his or her knowledge of marriage and family therapy. Examinations must be given at a time and place and under such supervision as the Board may determine.

2. The Board shall accept receipt of a passing grade by a qualified applicant on the national examination sponsored by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards in lieu of requiring a written examination pursuant to subsection 1.

3. In addition to the requirements of subsections 1 and 2, the Board may require an oral examination. The Board may examine applicants in whatever applied or theoretical fields it deems appropriate.

Sec. 6.6. NRS 641A.231 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.231 Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~641A.241 and~~ 641A.242, each applicant for a license to practice as a clinical professional counselor must furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

1. Is at least 21 years of age;

2. Is of good moral character;

3. Has:

(a) Completed residency training in psychiatry from an accredited institution approved by the Board;

(b) A graduate degree from a program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs



as a program in mental health counseling or community counseling;
or

(c) An acceptable degree as determined by the Board which includes the completion of a practicum and internship in mental health counseling which was taken concurrently with the degree program and was supervised by a licensed mental health professional; and

4. Has:

(a) At least 2 years of postgraduate experience in professional counseling;

(b) At least 3,000 hours of supervised experience in professional counseling which includes, without limitation:

(1) At least 1,500 hours of direct contact with clients; and

(2) At least 100 hours of counseling under the direct supervision of an approved supervisor of which at least 1 hour per week was completed for each work setting at which the applicant provided counseling; and

(c) Passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination which is administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Sec. 6.8. NRS 641A.242 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.242 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant ~~is~~:

~~—(a) Holds~~ **holds** a corresponding valid and unrestricted license as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor, as applicable, in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States . ~~is~~; and

~~—(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.]~~

2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor, as applicable; and



(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;

(b) *A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a report on the applicant's background, and to such other law enforcement agencies as the Board deems necessary for a report on the applicant's background;*

(c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct;

~~[(d)]~~ (d) The fees prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641A.290 for the application for an initial license and for the initial issuance of a license; and

~~[(d)]~~ (e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor, as applicable, to the applicant not later than 45 days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application.

4. A license by endorsement to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may *, for any reason,* grant a provisional license authorizing an applicant to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor, as applicable, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6. — As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~

Sec. 7. (Deleted by amendment.)



Sec. 7.5. NRS 641A.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.290 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the Board shall establish a schedule of fees for the following items which must not exceed the following amounts:

Application for an initial license	\$150
Initial issuance of a license.....	60
Biennial renewal of a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor.....	450
Fee for late payment of the biennial renewal	125
Placement of a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor on inactive status.....	200
Renewal of an intern’s license.....	150
Issuance of a duplicate license	10
Reevaluation of an applicant’s course work.....	50
Application for approval as a supervisor.....	75
Approval of a course or program of continuing education	25
Approval of a provider of continuing education	150

2. If an ~~applicant~~ *active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran* submits an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to NRS 641A.242, the Board shall collect not more than one-half of the fee established pursuant to subsection 1 for the application for and initial issuance of the license.

3. *As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.*

Sec. 8. Chapter 641B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 9 to 11.3, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 9. 1. *The Board shall grant a license to engage in social work as a master social worker to any applicant who possesses the preliminary qualifications set forth in NRS 641B.200 and who:*

(a) Possesses a master’s or doctoral degree in social work from:



(1) A college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or its successor organization, or which is a candidate for such accreditation; or

(2) A college or university located in a foreign country, or the equivalent of a master's or doctoral degree in social work from such a college or university, if the applicant includes in his or her application the documentation required by section 10 of this act; and

(b) Passes an examination prescribed by the Board.

2. A person licensed as a master social worker may:

(a) Engage in social work independently as part of an internship program approved by the Board to complete the supervised social work required for licensure as an independent social worker pursuant to NRS 641B.230;

(b) Engage in clinical social work as part of an internship program approved by the Board to complete the supervised, postgraduate, clinical social work required for licensure as a clinical social worker pursuant to NRS 641B.240; and

(c) Supervise other persons engaging in the practice of social work.

Sec. 10. 1. *If an applicant for a license to engage in social work is a graduate of a college or university located in a foreign country or currently enrolled in program of study leading to a degree in social work at such a college or university, the application must include:*

(a) Proof that the applicant possesses the degree required by NRS 641B.220, 641B.230, 641B.240 or 641B.275 or section 9 of this act, as applicable, or is enrolled in a program of study that meets the requirements of NRS 641B.275, as applicable; and

(b) If applicable, a written statement or other proof from the Council on Social Work Education or its successor organization that the degree is equivalent to a degree issued by a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or its successor organization.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the proof required by paragraph (a) of subsection 1 must be provided to the Board directly by the college or university that granted the degree. If the college or university is unable to provide such proof, the Board may accept proof from another source specified by the Board.

Sec. 11. 1. *An associate in social work, social worker, master social worker, independent social worker or clinical social worker may apply to the Board to have his or her license placed on*



inactive status. The Board may grant the application if the license is in good standing and the licensee has met all requirements for the issuance or renewal of a license as of the date of the application.

2. If the application is granted:

(a) The licensee must not engage in social work in this State unless the license is returned to active status; and

(b) The licensee is not required to complete continuing education unless his or her license is returned to active status.

3. The inactive status of a license is valid for 5 years after the date that the inactive status is granted.

4. If a license is placed on inactive status, the Board must not refund any portion of the renewal fee that was paid before the license was placed on inactive status.

5. The Board shall adopt regulations prescribing the:

(a) Procedures for making an application pursuant to this section;

(b) Procedures and terms upon which a person whose license has been placed on inactive status may have his or her license returned to active status; and

(c) Fees for the renewal of the inactive status of a license.

Sec. 11.3. *If the Board requires an applicant for a license pursuant to this chapter to submit official transcripts as proof of his or her educational qualifications, the Board must provide an alternate means for the applicant to submit official transcripts if:*

1. The college or university from which the applicant graduated has closed or has merged with another institution; and

2. The provision of the official transcripts by ordinary means is not available or possible.

Sec. 11.7. NRS 641B.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.160 1. The Board shall adopt:

(a) Such regulations as are necessary or desirable to enable it to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(b) Regulations establishing reasonable standards for the psychiatric training and experience necessary for a clinical social worker to be authorized to make the certifications described in NRS 433A.170, 433A.195 and 433A.200;

(c) Regulations prescribing uniform standards concerning the locations at which interns provide services;

(d) Regulations ~~[prescribing standards concerning]~~ *authorizing the remote supervision, including, without limitation,* electronic



supervision , of interns working at remote sites ~~[H]~~ and *prescribing standards concerning such remote supervision; and*

(e) Regulations prescribing the manner by which the qualifications for the issuance or renewal of a license under the provisions of this chapter will be made available to the public such that those qualifications are clearly defined and easily understood.

2. On the date that the Board gives notice pursuant to NRS 233B.060 of its intent to adopt, amend or repeal a regulation, the Board shall submit the regulation to the Commission on Behavioral Health for review. The Commission shall review the regulation and make recommendations to the Board concerning the advisability of adopting, amending or repealing the regulation and any changes that the Commission deems advisable.

Sec. 12. NRS 641B.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.165 *1.* On or before February 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Legislative Committee on Health Care *and to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429* a report which must include:

~~[H]~~ *(a)* The number of complaints received, investigations completed, cases dismissed, cases settled and cases for which hearings were held within the immediately preceding calendar year; ~~and~~

~~—2.]~~ *(b)* The number of applications for the issuance or renewal of a license received by the Board during the immediately preceding calendar year and the number of those applications for which the Board conducted additional review beyond the standard review regularly conducted by the Board ~~[H]~~; *and*

(c) The number of applications for the issuance of a license by endorsement received by the Board pursuant to NRS 641B.272 during the immediately preceding calendar year, the number of those applications that were denied and the reasons for denial.

2. The report submitted pursuant to this section to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429 may be submitted in a written format.

Sec. 13. NRS 641B.206 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.206 *1.* In addition to any other requirements set forth in this chapter:

(a) An applicant for the issuance of a license to engage in social work as an associate in social work, a social worker, *a master social worker*, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker shall include the social security number of the applicant in the application submitted to the Board.



(b) An applicant for the renewal of a license to engage in social work as an associate in social work or the issuance or renewal of a license to engage in social work as a social worker, *a master social worker*, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker shall submit to the Board the statement prescribed by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to NRS 425.520. The statement must be completed and signed by the applicant.

2. The Board shall include the statement required pursuant to subsection 1 in:

(a) The application or any other forms that must be submitted for the issuance or renewal of the license; or

(b) A separate form prescribed by the Board.

3. A license to engage in social work as an associate in social work, a social worker, *a master social worker*, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker may not be issued or renewed by the Board if the applicant:

(a) Fails to submit the statement required pursuant to subsection 1; or

(b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that the applicant is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order.

4. If an applicant indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that the applicant is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order, the Board shall advise the applicant to contact the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order to determine the actions that the applicant may take to satisfy the arrearage.

Sec. 14. NRS 641B.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.220 1. The Board shall grant a license to engage in social work as a social worker to any applicant who possesses the preliminary qualifications set forth in NRS 641B.200 and who:

(a) Possesses a baccalaureate degree or master's degree in social work from ~~the~~:

(1) A college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, *or its successor organization*, or which is a candidate for such accreditation ~~the~~; or

(2) *A college or university located in a foreign country, or the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree or master's degree in*



social work from such a college or university, if the applicant includes in his or her application the documentation required by section 10 of this act; and

(b) Passes an examination prescribed by the Board.

2. The Board shall grant a license to engage in social work as a social worker to an applicant licensed as an associate in social work who:

(a) Possesses the preliminary qualifications set forth in NRS 641B.200;

(b) Possesses a baccalaureate degree or master's degree in a related field, or has completed equivalent course work in a related field;

(c) Completes 3,000 hours of employment in Nevada as an associate in social work; and

(d) Passes an examination prescribed by the Board.

3. A person who is granted a license to engage in social work as a social worker pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 may supervise another person engaged in the practice of social work.

Sec. 15. NRS 641B.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.230 1. The Board shall grant a license to engage in social work as an independent social worker to any applicant who possesses the preliminary qualifications set forth in NRS 641B.200 and who:

(a) Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work from

~~and~~:

(1) A college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or its successor organization, or which is a candidate for such accreditation ~~and~~; or

(2) A college or university located in a foreign country, or the equivalent of a master's or doctoral degree in social work from such a college or university, if the applicant includes in his or her application the documentation required by section 10 of this act.

(b) Completes 3,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate social work approved by the Board.

(c) Passes an examination prescribed by the Board.

2. A person licensed as an independent social worker may:

(a) Engage in social work independently or within an agency;

~~and~~

(b) Engage in clinical social work as part of an internship program approved by the Board to complete the supervised clinical social work required for licensure as a clinical social worker pursuant to NRS 641B.240; and



(c) Supervise other persons engaging in the practice of social work.

Sec. 16. NRS 641B.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.240 1. The Board shall grant a license to engage in social work as a clinical social worker to any applicant who possesses the preliminary qualifications set forth in NRS 641B.200 and who:

(a) Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work from ~~the~~:

(1) A college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, *or its successor organization*, or which is a candidate for such accreditation ~~the~~; or

(2) *A college or university located in a foreign country, or the equivalent of a master's or doctoral degree in social work from such a college or university, if the applicant includes in his or her application the documentation required by section 10 of this act.*

(b) Completes 3,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate, clinical social work approved by the Board.

(c) Passes an examination prescribed by the Board.

2. A person licensed as a clinical social worker may:

(a) Engage in social work independently or within an agency; ~~and~~

(b) *Engage in clinical social work; and*

(c) Supervise other persons engaging in the practice of social work.

Sec. 17. NRS 641B.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.260 1. The Board may hold hearings and conduct investigations into any matter related to an application for licensure. The Board may require the presentation of evidence.

2. The Board may refuse to issue a license to an applicant if the applicant:

(a) Is not of good moral character as it relates to the practice of social work;

(b) Has submitted any false credential to the Board;

(c) Has been disciplined in another state in connection with the practice of social work *or a related profession* or has committed any act in another state which is a violation of this chapter; ~~or~~

(d) *Has committed an act that constitutes grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 641B.400;*

(e) *Has entered a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to, been found guilty or guilty but mentally ill of, or been convicted, in this State or any other jurisdiction, of a crime arising out of, in connection with or related to the activities of*



such a person in such a manner as to demonstrate his or her unfitness to engage in social work, and the time for appeal has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal; or

(f) Fails to comply with any other requirements for licensure.

Sec. 17.5. NRS 641B.272 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.272 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement to engage in social work to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant ~~is~~

~~—(a) Holds~~ *holds* a corresponding valid and unrestricted license to engage in social work in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States . ~~is; and~~

~~—(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.]~~

2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license to engage in social work; *and*

(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States; ~~and~~

~~—(4) Is currently engaged in social work under the license held required by paragraph (a) of subsection 1;]~~

(b) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints in the manner provided in NRS 641B.202;

(c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct; ~~and~~

(d) *The fee prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641B.300 for the initial application; and*

(e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement to engage in social work pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause,



the Board shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement to engage in social work to the applicant not later than ~~f~~

~~—(a) Forty five]~~ **45** days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application. ~~]; or~~
~~—(b) Ten days after the Board receives a report on the applicant’s background based on the submission of the applicant’s fingerprints, whichever occurs later.]~~

4. A license by endorsement to engage in social work may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may **, for any reason,** grant a provisional license authorizing an applicant to engage in social work in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6.—As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~

Sec. 18. NRS 641B.275 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.275 1. The Board shall grant a provisional license to engage in social work as a social worker to a person:

(a) Who applies to take the next available examination and who is otherwise eligible to be a social worker pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 641B.220; or

(b) Who:

(1) Possesses a baccalaureate degree or a master’s degree in a related field of study from ~~am~~ :

(I) An accredited college or university recognized by the Board; **or**

(II) A college or university located in a foreign country, or the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree or a master’s degree in a related field from such a college or university, if the applicant includes in his or her application the documentation required by section 10 of this act; and

(2) Presents evidence of enrollment in a program of study leading to a degree in social work at ~~am~~ :

(I) A college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or which is a candidate for such accreditation and which is approved by the Board ~~am~~; **or**

(II) A college or university located in a foreign country, or a program of study leading to the equivalent of a degree in social work from such a college or university, if the applicant



includes in his or her application the documentation required by section 10 of this act.

2. The Board shall grant a provisional license to engage in social work as an independent social worker to a person who applies to take the next available examination and who is otherwise eligible to be an independent social worker pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 641B.230.

3. The Board shall grant a provisional license to engage in social work as a clinical social worker to a person who applies to take the next available examination and who is otherwise eligible to be a clinical social worker pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 641B.240.

4. The Board shall establish by regulation the period during which a provisional license issued pursuant to this section will be valid. The period must be:

(a) No longer than 9 months for a person who is granted a provisional license to engage in social work pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 or subsection 2 or 3; and

(b) No longer than 3 years for a person who is granted a provisional license to engage in social work pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1.

Sec. 19. NRS 641B.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.280 1. Every holder of a license issued pursuant to this chapter may renew his or her license annually by:

(a) Applying to the Board for renewal;

(b) Paying the annual renewal fee set by the Board;

(c) ~~Submitting~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, submitting* evidence to the Board of completion of the required continuing education as set forth in regulations adopted by the Board; and

(d) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.

2. ~~The~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, the* Board shall, as a prerequisite for the renewal of a license, require the holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board, which must include, without limitation, a requirement that every 2 years the holder receive at least 2 hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness or another course of instruction on suicide prevention and awareness that is approved by the Board which the Board has determined to be effective and appropriate.

Sec. 20. NRS 641B.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.300 1. The Board shall charge and collect fees not to exceed the following amounts for:



Initial application.....	\$200
Provisional license.....	150
Initial issuance of a license as a social worker <i>or</i> <i>master social worker</i>	250
Initial issuance of a license as a clinical social worker or an independent social worker	350
Initial issuance of a license by endorsement	200
Annual renewal of a license as a social worker , <i>master social worker</i> or an associate in social work.....	175
Annual renewal of a license as a clinical social worker or an independent social worker	225
Restoration of a suspended license or reinstatement of a revoked license.....	150
Restoration of an expired license	200
Renewal of a delinquent license	100

2. If an ~~[applicant]~~ *active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran* submits an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to NRS 641B.272, the Board shall collect not more than one-half of the fee set forth in subsection 1 for the initial issuance of the license.

3. *As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.*

Sec. 21. NRS 641B.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.410 1. The Board, any ~~[of its members]~~ *member or employee of the Board* or any member of a review panel of social workers who becomes aware that any one or combination of the grounds for initiating disciplinary action may exist as to a person practicing social work in this State shall, and any other person who is so aware may, file a written complaint specifying the relevant facts with the Board. The complaint must specifically charge one or more of the grounds for initiating disciplinary action.

2. The Board shall retain all complaints filed with the Board pursuant to this section for at least 10 years, including, without limitation, any complaints not acted upon.

Sec. 22. NRS 641B.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641B.505 1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to engage in:

(a) The independent practice of social work unless he or she ~~[is licensed]~~ :



(1) Holds an active license as a clinical social worker or an independent social worker pursuant to this chapter ~~§~~; *or*

(2) Holds an active license as a master social worker pursuant to this chapter and is engaging in the independent practice of social work under the conditions prescribed in section 9 of this act.

(b) The clinical practice of social work unless he or she ~~is licensed~~:

(1) Holds an active license as a clinical social worker *issued* pursuant to this chapter ~~§~~; *or*

(2) Holds an active license as an independent social worker or master social worker issued pursuant to this chapter and is engaging in clinical social work under the conditions prescribed in NRS 641B.230 or section 9 of this act, as applicable.

(c) The practice of social work unless he or she holds an active license as an associate in social work, a social worker, a master social worker, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker issued pursuant to this chapter.

2. As used in this section, “independent practice of social work” means the unsupervised practice of social work, other than for a public employer, for compensation.

Sec. 22.5. Chapter 641C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

If the Board requires an applicant for a license or certificate pursuant to this chapter to submit official transcripts as proof of his or her educational qualifications, the Board must provide an alternate means for the applicant to submit official transcripts if:

- 1. The college or university from which the applicant has graduated has closed or has merged with another institution; and*
- 2. The provision of official transcripts by ordinary means is not available or possible.*

Sec. 23. NRS 641C.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.130 The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

1. A physician who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 630 or 633 of NRS;
2. A nurse who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 632 of NRS and is authorized by the State Board of Nursing to engage in the practice of counseling persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders or the practice of counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling;
3. A psychologist who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641 of NRS or authorized to practice psychology in this



State pursuant to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact enacted in NRS 641.227;

4. A clinical professional counselor or clinical professional counselor intern who is licensed pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS;

5. A marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist intern who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641A of NRS and is authorized by the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors to engage in the practice of counseling persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders or the practice of counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling; or

6. A person who is ~~licensed as a~~:

(a) *Licensed as:*

(1) A clinical social worker pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641B of NRS ; or

(2) *A master social worker or independent social worker pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641B of NRS and is engaging in clinical social work as part of an internship program approved by the Board of Examiners for Social Workers; and ~~is authorized~~*

(b) *Authorized* by the Board of Examiners for Social Workers to engage in the practice of counseling persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders or the practice of counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling.

Sec. 23.5. NRS 641C.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.200 1. The Board shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including, without limitation, regulations that : ~~prescribe:~~

(a) ~~The~~ *Prescribe the* ethical standards for licensed and certified counselors and certified interns;

(b) ~~The~~ *Prescribe the* requirements for continuing education for the renewal, restoration or reinstatement of a license or certificate;

(c) ~~Uniform~~ *Prescribe uniform* standards concerning the locations at which interns provide services;

(d) ~~Standards concerning~~ *Authorize* the *remote supervision, including, without limitation,* electronic supervision , of interns working at remote sites ~~;~~ and *prescribe standards concerning such remote supervision; and*

(e) ~~The~~ *Prescribe the* manner by which the qualifications for the issuance or renewal of a license or certificate under the



provisions of this chapter will be made available to the public such that those qualifications are clearly defined and easily understood.

2. The Board may adopt regulations that prescribe:

(a) The contents of a written and oral examination concerning the practice of counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling;

(b) The grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a certified problem gambling counselor or certified problem gambling counselor intern; and

(c) Disciplinary procedures for certified problem gambling counselors and certified problem gambling counselor interns, including the suspension, revocation and reinstatement of a certificate as a problem gambling counselor or problem gambling counselor intern.

3. Any regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to this section must be consistent with the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS.

4. On the date that the Board gives notice pursuant to NRS 233B.060 of its intent to adopt, amend or repeal a regulation, the Board shall submit the regulation to the Commission on Behavioral Health for review. The Commission shall review the regulation and make recommendations to the Board concerning the advisability of adopting, amending or repealing the regulation and any changes that the Commission deems advisable.

Sec. 24. NRS 641C.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.230 **1.** On or before February 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Legislative Committee on Health Care *and to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429* a report which must include:

~~1.]~~ (a) The number of complaints received, investigations completed, cases dismissed, cases settled and cases for which hearings were held within the immediately preceding calendar year;

~~and~~

~~2.]~~ (b) The number of applications for the issuance or renewal of a license or certificate received by the Board during the immediately preceding calendar year and the number of those applications for which the Board conducted additional review beyond the standard review regularly conducted by the Board ~~1.]~~ ;

and

(c) The number of applications for the issuance of a license or certificate by endorsement received by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.3306, 641C.356, 641C.396 and 641C.433 during the



immediately preceding calendar year, the number of those applications that were denied and the reasons for denial.

2. The report submitted pursuant to this section to the Chair of each regional behavioral health policy board created by NRS 433.429 may be submitted in a written format.

Sec. 24.5. NRS 641C.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.290 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 641C.300 ~~[- 641C.3305]~~ and 641C.3306, each applicant for a license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor must pass a written and oral examination concerning his or her knowledge of the clinical practice of counseling persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders, the applicable provisions of this chapter and any applicable regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 641C.300, ~~[641C.355.]~~ 641C.356 ~~[- 641C.395]~~ and 641C.396, each applicant for a license or certificate as an alcohol and drug counselor must pass a written and oral examination concerning his or her knowledge of the practice of counseling persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders, the applicable provisions of this chapter and any applicable regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

3. Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~[641C.432 and]~~ 641C.433, each applicant for a certificate as a problem gambling counselor must pass a written and oral examination concerning his or her knowledge of the practice of counseling persons with an addictive disorder related to gambling, the applicable provisions of this chapter and any applicable regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

4. The Board shall:

(a) Examine applicants at least two times each year.

(b) Establish the time and place for the examinations.

(c) Provide such books and forms as may be necessary to conduct the examinations.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 622.090, establish, by regulation, the requirements for passing the examination.

5. The Board may employ other persons to conduct the examinations.

Sec. 25. (Deleted by amendment.)



Sec. 25.2. NRS 641C.3306 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.3306 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant ~~is~~:

~~—(a) Holds~~ **holds** a corresponding valid and unrestricted license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States . ~~is and~~

~~—(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.~~

2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor; and

(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;

(b) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints in the manner provided in NRS 641C.260;

(c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct;

(d) The fees prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.470 for the initial application for and issuance of an initial license; and

(e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor to the applicant not later than ~~is~~:

~~—(a) Forty five~~ **45** days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application . ~~is or~~



~~—(b) Ten days after the Board receives a report on the applicant’s background based on the submission of the applicant’s fingerprints, whichever occurs later.]~~

4. A license by endorsement as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may, *for any reason*, grant a provisional license authorizing an applicant to practice as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6. As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~

Sec. 25.4. NRS 641C.356 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.356 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant ~~is~~

~~—(a) Holds] holds~~ a corresponding valid and unrestricted license as an alcohol and drug counselor in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States . ~~is; and~~

~~—(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.]~~

2. An applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license as an alcohol and drug counselor; and

(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;

(b) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints in the manner provided in NRS 641C.260;

(c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct;



(d) The fees prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.470 for the initial application for and issuance of an initial license; and

(e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a license by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor to the applicant not later than ~~15~~

~~—(a) Forty five] 45~~ days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application . ~~15; or~~

~~—(b) Ten days after the Board receives a report on the applicant's background based on the submission of the applicant's fingerprints, whichever occurs later.]~~

4. A license by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may *, for any reason,* grant a provisional license authorizing an applicant to practice as an alcohol and drug counselor in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6. — As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~

Sec. 25.6. NRS 641C.396 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.396 1. The Board may issue a certificate by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a certificate if the applicant ~~15~~

~~—(a) Holds] holds~~ a corresponding valid and unrestricted certificate as an alcohol and drug counselor in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States . ~~15; and~~

~~—(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.]~~

2. An applicant for a certificate by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:



- (1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;
- (2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a certificate as an alcohol and drug counselor; and
- (3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;
 - (b) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints in the manner provided in NRS 641C.260;
 - (c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct;
 - (d) The fees prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.470 for the initial application for and issuance of an initial certificate; and
 - (e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a certificate by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a certificate by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor to the applicant not later than ~~15~~:

- ~~—(a) Forty five] 45~~ days after receiving all additional information required by the Board to complete the application. ~~15; or~~
~~—(b) Ten days after the Board receives a report on the applicant's background based on the submission of the applicant's fingerprints, whichever occurs later.]~~

4. A certificate by endorsement as an alcohol and drug counselor may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a certificate by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may, *for any reason*, grant a provisional certificate authorizing an applicant to practice as an alcohol and drug counselor in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~



Sec. 25.8. NRS 641C.433 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.433 1. The Board may issue a certificate by endorsement as a problem gambling counselor to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a certificate if the applicant ~~is~~

~~—(a) Holds~~ **holds** a corresponding valid and unrestricted certificate as a problem gambling counselor in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States. ~~is; and~~

~~—(b) Is an active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran.]~~

2. An applicant for a certificate by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the District of Columbia or the state or territory in which the applicant holds a certificate as a problem gambling counselor; and

(3) Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;

(b) A complete set of fingerprints and written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints in the manner provided in NRS 641C.260;

(c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct;

(d) The fees prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.470 for the initial application for and issuance of an initial certificate; and

(e) Any other information required by the Board.

3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a certificate by endorsement as a problem gambling counselor pursuant to this section, the Board shall provide written notice to the applicant of any additional information required by the Board to consider the application. Unless the Board denies the application for good cause, the Board shall approve the application and issue a certificate by endorsement as a problem gambling counselor to the applicant not later than ~~is~~

~~—(a) Forty five~~ **45** days after receiving all the additional information required by the Board to complete the application. ~~is; or~~



~~—(b) Ten days after the Board receives a report on the applicant’s background based on the submission of the applicant’s fingerprints, whichever occurs later.]~~

4. A certificate by endorsement as a problem gambling counselor may be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its meetings by the President of the Board. Such an action shall be deemed to be an action of the Board.

5. At any time before making a final decision on an application for a certificate by endorsement pursuant to this section, the Board may, *for any reason*, grant a provisional certificate authorizing an applicant to practice as a problem gambling counselor in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

~~[6. As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.]~~

Sec. 25.9. NRS 641C.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.470 1. The Board shall charge and collect not more than the following fees:

For the initial application for a license or certificate, including a license or certificate by endorsement	\$150
For the issuance of a provisional license or certificate.....	125
For the issuance of an initial license or certificate, including a license or certificate by endorsement	60
For the renewal of a license or certificate as an alcohol and drug counselor, a license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor or a certificate as a problem gambling counselor	300
For the renewal of a certificate as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor intern, an alcohol and drug counselor intern or a problem gambling counselor intern	75
For the renewal of a delinquent license or certificate.....	75
For the restoration of an expired license or certificate.....	150
For the restoration or reinstatement of a suspended or revoked license or certificate	300
For the issuance of a license or certificate without examination	150
For an examination.....	150
For the approval of a course of continuing education	150



2. ~~HF~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if* an applicant submits an application for a license or certificate by endorsement pursuant to NRS ~~[641C.3305, 641C.355, 641C.395 or 641C.432,]~~ *641C.3306, 641C.356, 641C.396 or 641C.433,* the Board shall charge and collect not more than the fees specified in subsection 1 for the initial application for and issuance of an initial license or certificate, as applicable.

3. If an ~~applicant~~ *active member of, or the spouse of an active member of, the Armed Forces of the United States, a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran* submits an application for a license or certificate by endorsement pursuant to NRS 641C.3306, 641C.356, 641C.396 or 641C.433, as applicable, the Board shall collect not more than one-half of the fee specified in subsection 1 for the initial issuance of the license.

4. The fees charged and collected pursuant to this section are not refundable.

5. As used in this section, “veteran” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

Sec. 26. NRS 62A.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

62A.270 “Qualified professional” means:

1. A psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this State and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.;

2. A psychologist licensed to practice in this State;

3. A social worker holding a master’s degree in social work and licensed in this State as a *master social worker or* clinical social worker;

4. A registered nurse holding a master’s degree in the field of psychiatric nursing and licensed to practice professional nursing in this State;

5. A marriage and family therapist licensed in this State pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS; or

6. A clinical professional counselor licensed in this State pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS.

Sec. 27. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 28. NRS 689A.0485 is hereby amended to read as follows:

689A.0485 If any policy of health insurance provides coverage for treatment of an illness which is within the authorized scope of the practice of a licensed associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker,* independent social worker or clinical social worker, the insured is entitled to reimbursement for treatment by an associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker,*



independent social worker or clinical social worker who is licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS.

Sec. 29. NRS 689B.0385 is hereby amended to read as follows:

689B.0385 If any policy of group health insurance provides coverage for treatment of an illness which is within the authorized scope of the practice of a licensed associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker*, independent social worker or clinical social worker, the insured is entitled to reimbursement for treatment by an associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker*, independent social worker or clinical social worker who is licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS.

Sec. 30. NRS 695B.1975 is hereby amended to read as follows:

695B.1975 If any contract for hospital or medical service provides coverage for treatment of an illness which is within the authorized scope of the practice of a licensed associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker*, independent social worker or clinical social worker, the insured is entitled to reimbursement for treatment by an associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker*, independent social worker or clinical social worker who is licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS.

Sec. 31. NRS 695C.1775 is hereby amended to read as follows:

695C.1775 If any evidence of coverage provides coverage for treatment of an illness which is within the authorized scope of the practice of a licensed associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker*, independent social worker or clinical social worker, the insured is entitled to reimbursement for treatment by an associate in social work, social worker, *master social worker*, independent social worker or clinical social worker who is licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS.

Sec. 32. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 33. Notwithstanding the amendatory provisions of section 22 of this act, the holder of a license to engage in the practice of social work as a social worker issued pursuant to NRS 641B.220 who:

1. Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work from a college or university which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or its successor organization, or which is a candidate for such accreditation; and



2. Is engaging in the independent practice of social work or the practice of clinical social work as part of an internship program described in subsection 2 of section 9 of this act on July 1, 2021,

↳ may continue to do so for the current term of his or her license.

Sec. 33.5. NRS 641.195, 641A.241, 641B.271, 641C.3305, 641C.355, 641C.395 and 641C.432 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 34. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 33.5, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing any preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On July 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

