

HOUSE BILL NO. 4905

September 11, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Schmaltz, Schuette and Alexander and referred to Committee on Families and Veterans.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled
"Public health code,"
by amending section 16909 (MCL 333.16909), as amended by 1997 PA
188.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 16909. (1) ~~The board shall grant~~ **To be granted** a license
2 as a marriage and family therapist, ~~to an individual who meets~~ **must**
3 **meet** all of the following requirements:
4 (a) ~~Provides~~ **The individual provides** satisfactory evidence to
5 the board of meeting either of the following educational

1 qualifications:

2 (i) Has a master's or higher graduate degree from an accredited
3 training program in marriage and family therapy approved by the
4 board.

5 (ii) Has a master's or higher graduate degree from an
6 accredited college or university approved by the board and has
7 completed all of the following graduate-level courses at an
8 accredited college or university approved by the board:

9 (A) Three courses in family studies that total at least 6
10 semester or 9 quarter hours.

11 (B) Three courses in family therapy methodology that total at
12 least 6 semester or 9 quarter hours.

13 (C) Three courses in human development, personality theory, or
14 psychopathology that total at least 6 semester or 9 quarter hours.

15 (D) At least 2 semester or 3 quarter hours in ethics, law, and
16 standards of professional practice.

17 (E) At least 2 semester or 3 quarter hours in research.

18 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), **the**
19 **individual** provides satisfactory evidence to the board of having
20 completed supervised clinical marriage and family therapy
21 experience in conjunction with the applicant's educational program.
22 The clinical marriage and family therapy experience described in
23 this subdivision ~~shall~~**must** meet all of the following requirements:

24 (i) Be obtained either in a clinical practicum during graduate
25 education or in a postgraduate marriage and family institute
26 training program acceptable to the board.

27 (ii) Be obtained over not less than 8 consecutive months.

28 (iii) Be verified by a supervisor who has a master's or higher
29 graduate degree from an accredited college or university approved

by the board and meets 1 of the following:

(A) Is a marriage and family therapist.

(B) Is a ~~certified~~ **licensed master's** social worker ~~or a social worker registered under article 16 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.1601 to 339.1610.~~ **as that term is defined in section 18501.**

(C) Is a licensed professional counselor **as that term is** defined in section 18101.

(D) Is a physician **as that term is** defined in section 17001 or 17501 and practicing in a mental health setting.

(E) Is a fully licensed psychologist ~~as defined in section 18201.~~ **under part 182.**

(F) Is an approved supervisor or supervisor-in-training through a program conducted by the American ~~association~~ **Association** for marriage ~~Marriage~~ and family therapy ~~Family Therapy~~ and approved by the board.

(iv) Include not less than 300 direct client contact hours in supervised clinical marriage and family therapy experience, at least 1/2 of which were completed in a setting in which families, couples, or subsystems of families were ~~physically present in the therapy room.~~ **same location or a setting in which families, couples, or subsystems of families met by way of 2-way real-time secure technology that allowed direct, contemporaneous interaction by sight or sound.**

(v) Be supervised in a ratio of at least 1 hour of supervision for each 5 hours of direct client contact, for a total of not less than 60 hours of supervision concurrent with the 300 hours of supervised direct client contact.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), **the**

1 **individual** provides satisfactory evidence to the board of having
 2 completed a minimum of 1,000 direct client contact hours in
 3 supervised marriage and family therapy experience, at least 1/2 of
 4 which ~~was~~**were** completed ~~with~~**in a setting in which** families,
 5 couples, or subsystems of families ~~physically~~**were** present in the
 6 ~~therapy room, that meets same location or a setting in which~~
 7 **families, couples, or subsystems of families met by way of 2-way**
 8 **real-time secure technology that allowed direct, contemporaneous**
 9 **interaction by sight or sound. The marriage and family therapy**
 10 **experience described in this subdivision must meet** all of the
 11 following conditions:

12 (i) ~~Is~~**Be** verified by the supervising licensed marriage and
 13 family therapist.

14 (ii) ~~Is~~**Be** obtained following the completion of the degree
 15 required by subdivision (a) (i), ~~is~~**be** obtained following the
 16 completion of the degree required by subdivision (a) (ii) and
 17 concurrent with or following the course work specified in
 18 subdivision (a) (ii) (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E), or ~~is~~**be** obtained as
 19 part of a doctoral program in marriage and family therapy from an
 20 accredited college or university approved by the board, which
 21 experience may include experience obtained under subdivision (b) (i).

22 (iii) ~~Is~~**Be** supervised in a ratio of at least 1 hour of
 23 supervision for each 5 hours of experience, for a total of not less
 24 than 200 hours of supervision concurrent with the 1,000 hours of
 25 supervised experience. Not less than 100 hours of supervision under
 26 this subparagraph ~~shall~~**must** be individual supervision with no more
 27 than 1 other supervisee present. The remaining supervision under
 28 this subparagraph may be group supervision involving no more than 6
 29 supervisees with 1 supervisor. The supervision ~~shall~~**may** be given

1 in face-to-face contact with the individual obtaining marriage and
2 family therapy experience **or by using 2-way real-time secure**
3 **technology that allows direct, contemporaneous interaction by sight**
4 **or sound.**

5 (2) The board shall waive the requirements of subsection
6 (1)(b) and (c) ~~for-if~~ an applicant ~~who~~ provides satisfactory
7 evidence to the board of having obtained a doctoral degree from an
8 accredited doctoral training program in marriage and family therapy
9 approved by the board.