SENATE BILL NO. 319-SENATOR HARDY

MARCH 18, 2013

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing certain professions. (BDR 54-713)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to professions; revising certain provisions governing certain continuing education requirements for physicians; authorizing certain qualified professionals who hold a license in another state or territory of the United States to apply for a license by endorsement to practice in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law generally provides for the regulation of professions in this State. (Title 54 of NRS) Section 1 of this bill authorizes a physician to substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in pain management or addiction care for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics. Section 2 of this bill requires the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to require, as part of the continuing education requirements approved by the Board, the biennial completion by an osteopathic physician of at least 2 hours of credit in pain management and addiction care. Sections 3 and 11 of this bill authorize certain qualified professionals who are licensed in another state or territory of the United States to practice as a clinical professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, alcohol and drug abuse counselor or problem gambling counselor to apply for and receive a license or certificate by endorsement to practice their respective profession in this State. If the applicant is an active member or veteran of, the spouse of an active member or veteran of, or the surviving spouse of a veteran of, the Armed Forces of the United States, the applicant is entitled to a 50 percent reduction in the fees otherwise provided for the application, endorsement and issuance of the license or certificate.



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

Section 1. NRS 630.253 is hereby amended to read as follows: 630.253 1. The Board shall, as a prerequisite for the:

- (a) Renewal of a license as a physician assistant; or
- 4 (b) Biennial registration of the holder of a license to practice medicine,
 - require each holder to comply with the requirements for continuing education adopted by the Board.
 - 2. These requirements:

- (a) May provide for the completion of one or more courses of instruction relating to risk management in the performance of medical services.
- (b) Must provide for the completion of a course of instruction, within 2 years after initial licensure, relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction. The course must provide at least 4 hours of instruction that includes instruction in the following subjects:
- (1) An overview of acts of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;
- (2) Personal protective equipment required for acts of terrorism;
- (3) Common symptoms and methods of treatment associated with exposure to, or injuries caused by, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear agents;
- (4) Syndromic surveillance and reporting procedures for acts of terrorism that involve biological agents; and
- (5) An overview of the information available on, and the use of, the Health Alert Network.
- The Board may thereafter determine whether to include in a program of continuing education additional courses of instruction relating to the medical consequences of an act of terrorism that involves the use of a weapon of mass destruction.
- 3. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license who treats or cares for persons who are more than 60 years of age to receive, as a portion of their continuing education, education in geriatrics and gerontology, including such topics as:
- (a) The skills and knowledge that the licensee needs to address aging issues;
- (b) Approaches to providing health care to older persons, including both didactic and clinical approaches;
- (c) The biological, behavioral, social and emotional aspects of the aging process; and





- (d) The importance of maintenance of function and independence for older persons.
- 4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.
- 5. A holder of a license to practice medicine may substitute not more than 2 hours of continuing education credits in pain management or addiction care for the purposes of satisfying an equivalent requirement for continuing education in ethics.
 - **6.** As used in this section:

- (a) "Act of terrorism" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4415.
- (b) "Biological agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.442.
- (c) "Chemical agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4425.
- (d) "Radioactive agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4437.
- (e) "Weapon of mass destruction" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 202.4445.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 633.471 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.471 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection [5] 6 and NRS 633.491, every holder of a license issued under this chapter, except a temporary or a special license, may renew the license on or before January 1 of each calendar year after its issuance by:
 - (a) Applying for renewal on forms provided by the Board;
- (b) Paying the annual license renewal fee specified in this chapter;
- (c) Submitting a list of all actions filed or claims submitted to arbitration or mediation for malpractice or negligence against the holder during the previous year;

 (d) Submitting an affidavit to the Board that in the year
 - (d) Submitting an affidavit to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal the holder has attended courses or programs of continuing education approved by the Board totaling a number of hours established by the Board which must not be less than 35 hours nor more than that set in the requirements for continuing medical education of the American Osteopathic Association; and
 - (e) Submitting all information required to complete the renewal.





- 2. The Secretary of the Board shall notify each licensee of the requirements for renewal not less than 30 days before the date of renewal.
- 3. The Board shall request submission of verified evidence of completion of the required number of hours of continuing medical education annually from no fewer than one-third of the applicants for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or a license to practice as a physician assistant. Upon a request from the Board, an applicant for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or a license to practice as a physician assistant shall submit verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal the applicant attended courses or programs of continuing medical education approved by the Board totaling the number of hours established by the Board.
- 4. The Board shall encourage each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine to receive, as a portion of his or her continuing education, training concerning methods for educating patients about how to effectively manage medications, including, without limitation, the ability of the patient to request to have the symptom or purpose for which a drug is prescribed included on the label attached to the container of the drug.
- 5. The Board shall require, as part of the continuing education requirements approved by the Board, the biennial completion by a holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine of at least 2 hours of continuing education credits in pain management or addiction care.
- 6. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the United States Public Health Service are exempt from payment of the annual license renewal fee during their active duty status.
- **Sec. 3.** Chapter 641A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement to practice as a clinical professional counselor or marriage and family therapist to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section and who demonstrates competency by satisfying any requirements for course work, supervision and experience as provided in regulations adopted by the Board. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license if the applicant holds a corresponding valid and unrestricted license to practice his or her respective profession in the District of Columbia or in any other state or territory of the United States.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, an applicant for a license by endorsement pursuant to this section must submit to the Board with his or her application:





- (a) The fee provided by NRS 641A.290 for an application for a license and, in lieu of the fee for the examination otherwise required by that section, a fee for the endorsement in the amount of \$200;
 - (b) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Is a citizen of the United States or otherwise has the legal right to work in the United States;

(3) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license to practice his or her respective profession; and

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

15 the United States more than once:

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- (c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct; and
 - (d) Any other information required by the Board.
- 3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license by endorsement 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 the applicant not later than 30 days after receiving all materials, documentation and other information required by the Board to evaluate the application.

4. A license by endorsement may be issued at a meeting of the Board.

- 5. If an applicant for a license by endorsement provides with his or her application proof satisfactory to the Board or the President of the Board, as applicable, that the applicant is an active member or veteran of, the spouse of an active member or veteran of, or the surviving spouse of a veteran of, the Armed Forces of the United States, the Board shall not charge or collect more than one-half of the fees specified by NRS 641A.290 and subsection 2 of this section for the application, endorsement and issuance of the license by endorsement.
 - **Sec. 4.** (Deleted by amendment.)
- Sec. 5. (Deleted by amendment.)
- **Sec. 6.** (Deleted by amendment.)
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 641A.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.220 [Each] Except as otherwise provided in section 3 of 44 45 this act, 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. Is a citizen of the United States, or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- 4. 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;
 - 5. 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
- 6. Holds an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution approved by the Board.

Sec. 8. NRS 641A.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 641A.230 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 [,] and section 3 of this act, 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. 9. NRS 641A.231 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.231 [Each] Except as otherwise provided in section 3 of this act, 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. Is a citizen of the United States, or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
 - 4. 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
 - 5. 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. 10. NRS 641A.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641A.290 [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 3 of this act, the Board shall charge and collect not more than the following fees, respectively:

For application for a license	\$75
For examination of an applicant for a license	200
For issuance of a license.	
For annual renewal of a license	
For reinstatement of a license revoked for	
nonpayment of the fee for renewal	100
For an inactive license	150

Sec. 11. Chapter 641C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Board may issue a license or certificate by endorsement to practice as a certified counselor or licensed counselor to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in this section and who demonstrates competency by satisfying any requirements for course work, supervision and experience as provided in regulations adopted by the Board. An applicant may submit to the Board an application for such a license or certificate





if the applicant holds a corresponding valid and unrestricted license or certificate to practice his or her respective profession in the District of Columbia or in any other state or territory of the United States.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, an applicant for a license or certificate by endorsement pursuant to this section

must submit to the Board with his or her application:

(a) The fee provided by NRS 641C.470 for an initial application for a license or certificate and, in lieu of the fee for the examination otherwise required by that section, a fee for the endorsement in the amount of \$200;

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

(1) Satisfies the requirements of subsection 1;

(2) Is a citizen of the United States or otherwise has the

legal right to work in the United States;

(3) Has not been disciplined or investigated by the corresponding regulatory authority of the state or territory in which the applicant holds a license or certificate to practice his or her respective profession; and

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

the United States more than once;

- (c) An affidavit stating that the information contained in the application and any accompanying material is true and correct; and
 - (d) Any other information required by the Board.
- 3. Not later than 15 business days after receiving an application for a license or certificate by endorsement 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 or certificate by endorsement to the applicant not later than 30 days after receiving all materials, documentation and other information required by the Board to evaluate the application.

4. A license or certificate by endorsement may be issued at a meeting of the Board.

5. If an applicant for a license or certificate by endorsement provides with his or her application proof satisfactory to the Board or the President of the Board, as applicable, that the applicant is an active member or veteran of, the spouse of an active member or veteran of, or the surviving spouse of a veteran of, the Armed Forces of the United States, the Board shall not charge or collect more than one-half of the fees specified by NRS 641C.470 and





subsection 2 of this section for the application, endorsement and issuance of the license or certificate by endorsement.

Sec. 12. NRS 641C.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.300 The Board shall issue a license or certificate without examination to a person who holds a license or certificate as a clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor or an alcohol and drug abuse counselor in another state, a territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia if the *license or certificate* is issued by endorsement pursuant to section 11 of this act, or if the requirements of that jurisdiction at the time the license or certificate was issued are deemed by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the requirements set forth in the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 13. NRS 641C.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.330 [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, the Board shall issue a license as a clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor to:

1. A person who:

- (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- (c) Has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in a field of social science approved by the Board that includes comprehensive course work in clinical mental health, including the diagnosis of mental health disorders;
- (d) Has completed a program approved by the Board consisting of at least 2,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate counseling of alcohol and drug abusers;
 - (e) Has completed a program that:
 - (1) Is approved by the Board; and
- (2) Consists of at least 2,000 hours of postgraduate counseling of persons with mental illness who are also alcohol and drug abusers that is supervised by a licensed clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor who is approved by the Board;
- (f) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;
 - (g) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- (h) Submits all information required to complete an application for a license.
 - 2. A person who:
 - (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- 42 (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
 - (c) Is:





- (1) Licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS; 2
 - (2) Licensed as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS; or
 - (3) A nurse who is licensed pursuant to chapter 632 of NRS and has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university;
 - (d) Has completed at least 6 months of supervised counseling of alcohol and drug abusers approved by the Board;
- 10 (e) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290; 11
 - (f) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- 13 (g) Submits all the information required to complete an 14 application for a license. 15

Sec. 14. NRS 641C.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.350 [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, the Board shall issue a license as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor to:

1 A person who:

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- (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States:
- (c) Has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in a field of social science approved by the Board:
- (d) Has completed 4,000 hours of supervised counseling of alcohol and drug abusers:
- (e) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;
 - (f) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- (g) Submits all information required to complete an application 31 32 for a license
 - 2. A person who:
 - (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to 35 36 remain and work in the United States;
 - (c) Is:
 - (1) Licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS;
- 40 (2) Licensed as a clinical professional counselor pursuant to 41 chapter 641A of NRS;
- 42 (3) Licensed as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to 43 chapter 641A of NRS;





- (4) A nurse who is licensed pursuant to chapter 632 of NRS and has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university; or
- (5) Licensed as a clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to this chapter;
- (d) Has completed at least 6 months of supervised counseling of alcohol and drug abusers approved by the Board;
- (e) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;
 - (f) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- (g) Submits all information required to complete an application for a license.

Sec. 15. NRS 641C.390 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.390 1. [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, the Board shall issue a certificate as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor to a person who:

- (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, has received a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a field of social science approved by the Board;
- (d) Has completed 4,000 hours of supervised counseling of alcohol and drug abusers;
- (e) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;
 - (f) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- (g) Submits all information required to complete an application for a certificate.
- 2. The Board may waive the educational requirement set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 1 if an applicant for a certificate has contracted with or receives a grant from the Federal Government to provide services as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor to persons who are authorized to receive those services pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §§ 450 et seq. or 25 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq. An alcohol and drug abuse counselor certified pursuant to this section for whom the educational requirement set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 1 is waived may provide services as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor only to those persons who are authorized to receive those services pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §§ 450 et seq. or 25 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq.
- 3. A certificate as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor is valid for 2 years and may be renewed.
 - 4. A certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor may:





- (a) Engage in the practice of counseling alcohol and drug 2 abusers: and
- (b) Diagnose or classify a person as an alcoholic or abuser of 3 4 drugs.

Sec. 16. NRS 641C.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.430 [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, the Board may issue a certificate as a problem gambling counselor to:

1. A person who:

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- (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- (c) Has received a bachelor's degree, master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in a field of social science approved by the Board;
- (d) Has completed not less than 60 hours of training specific to problem gambling approved by the Board;
- (e) Has completed at least 2,000 hours of supervised counseling of problem gamblers in a setting approved by the Board;
- (f) Passes the written examination prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;
- (g) Presents himself or herself when scheduled for an interview at a meeting of the Board;
 - (h) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- (i) Submits all information required to complete an application for a certificate.
 - 2. A person who:
 - (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to 30 remain and work in the United States;
 - (c) Is licensed as:
- (1) A clinical social worker pursuant to chapter 641B of 32 33 NRS:
- (2) A clinical professional counselor pursuant to chapter 35 641A of NRS;
 - (3) A marriage and family therapist pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS:
 - (4) A physician pursuant to chapter 630 of NRS;
 - (5) A nurse pursuant to chapter 632 of NRS and has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university;
 - (6) A psychologist pursuant to chapter 641 of NRS;
 - (7) An alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to this chapter; or





- (8) A clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to this chapter;
- (d) Has completed not less than 60 hours of training specific to problem gambling approved by the Board;
- (e) Has completed at least 1,000 hours of supervised counseling of problem gamblers in a setting approved by the Board;
- (f) Passes the written examination prescribed by the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;
 - (g) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- 10 (h) Submits all information required to complete an application for a certificate.

Sec. 17. NRS 641C.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641C.470 1. [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 11 of this act, the Board shall charge and collect not more than the following fees:

For the initial application for a license or certificate	\$150
For the issuance of a provisional license or	
certificate	125
For the issuance of an initial license or certificate	60
For the renewal of a license or certificate as an	
alcohol and drug abuse counselor, a license as a	
clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor or a	
certificate as a problem gambling counselor	300
For the renewal of a certificate as a clinical alcohol	
and drug abuse counselor intern, an alcohol and	
drug abuse 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	13
certificate	150
For the restoration or reinstatement of a suspended	150
or revoked license or certificate	300
For the issuance of a license or certificate without	500
	150
examination	
For an examination	130
For the approval of a course of continuing	4.50
education	150

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

Sec. 18. (Deleted by amendment.)





