

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 23-0176.01 Yelana Love x2295

**HOUSE BILL 23-1070**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ricks,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Buckner,**

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**House Committees**  
Health & Insurance

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE PRACTICE HOURS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN LICENSURE**  
102 **AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Effective January 1, 2024, the bill:

- Reduces the individual and marriage and family therapy practice requirement for licensure as a marriage and family therapist from at least 2 years of post-master's or one year of postdoctoral practice to at least one year of post-master's or one year of postdoctoral practice; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

- Reduces the post-degree clinical supervised practice period required for an applicant for licensure as a licensed professional counselor from at least 2 years of post-master's practice or one year of postdoctoral supervised clinical practice to at least one year of post-master's or post-doctoral supervised clinical practice.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-245-504, **amend**  
3 (1)(d) as follows:

4 **12-245-504. Qualifications - examination - licensure and**  
5 **registration.** (1) The board shall issue a license as a marriage and family  
6 therapist to each applicant who files an application in a form and manner  
7 required by the board, submits the fee required by the board pursuant to  
8 section 12-245-205, and furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that  
9 the applicant:

10 (d) Subsequent to completing the applicant's master's or doctoral  
11 degree, has had at least ~~two years~~ ONE YEAR of post-master's or one year  
12 of postdoctoral practice in individual and marriage and family therapy,  
13 including at least one thousand five hundred hours of face-to-face direct  
14 client contact as determined by the board for the purpose of assessment  
15 and intervention under clinical supervision that may be in person or  
16 telesupervision; and

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-245-604, **amend**  
18 (1)(d)(I) as follows:

19 **12-245-604. Licensure - examination - licensed professional**  
20 **counselors.** (1) The board shall issue a license as a licensed professional  
21 counselor to each applicant who files an application in a form and manner  
22 required by the board, submits the fee required by the board pursuant to

1 section 12-245-205, and furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that  
2 the applicant:

3 (d) (I) Has at least ~~two years~~ ONE YEAR of post-master's practice  
4 or one year of postdoctoral practice in licensed professional counseling  
5 under clinical supervision; ~~and~~ OR

6 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
7 takes effect January 1, 2024; except that, if a referendum petition is filed  
8 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this  
9 act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
10 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
11 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
12 general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take  
13 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
14 governor.