

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0110.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 26-1228

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO LICENSURE AS A**
102 **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST.**

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>.)

Under current law, an individual who has completed a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy, or its equivalent, from a degree program that included an internship or practicum in the principles and practice of marriage and family therapy may be registered as a candidate for licensure and must complete at least 1,500 supervised clinical hours to be licensed as a marriage and family therapist (LMFT).

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.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 13, 2026

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 6, 2026

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 5, 2026

The bill allows an applicant whose master's or doctoral degree program did not include an internship or practicum to also be registered as an LMFT candidate, but requires these candidates to complete an additional 700 supervised clinical hours to become an LMFT.

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)(c) and (1)(d) as follows:

4 **12-245-504. Qualifications - examination - licensure and**
5 **registration - rules.**

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

11 (c) Has completed a master's or doctoral degree from an
12 accredited school or college in marriage and family therapy or its
13 equivalent as determined by the board, and the degree:

14 (I) Includes a practicum or internship in the principles and
15 practice of marriage and family therapy; OR

16 (II) FOR AN APPLICANT APPLYING ON OR AFTER MARCH 1, 2027,
17 DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRACTICUM OR INTERNSHIP IN THE PRINCIPLES AND
18 PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, AND THE REQUIREMENTS
19 OF SUBSECTION (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION ARE MET PRIOR TO LICENSURE AS
20 A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST;

21 (d) Subsequent to completing the applicant's master's or doctoral
22 degree, has had at least two years of post-master's or one year of
23 postdoctoral practice in individual and marriage and family therapy,

1 including at least one thousand five hundred hours, OR, FOR AN APPLICANT
2 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION, SEVEN HUNDRED
3 HOURS IN ADDITION TO THE HOURS REQUIRED FOR AN APPLICANT
4 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, of face-to-face
5 direct client contact as determined by the board for the purpose of
6 assessment and intervention under clinical supervision that may be in
7 person or THROUGH telesupervision; and

8 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
11 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
12 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
13 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
14 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
15 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
16 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
17 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.