

Senate Bill 128

By: Senators Millar of the 40th and Unterman of the 45th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, so as to revise
3 definitions relating to marriage and family therapy; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 10A of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professional
8 counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, is amended in Code Section
9 43-10A-3, relating to definitions, by revising paragraphs (8) and (17) as follows:

10 "(8) 'Marriage and family therapy' means that specialty which evaluates, diagnoses, and
11 treats emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, affective, or
12 behavioral, resolves intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts, and changes perception,
13 attitudes, and behavior; all within the context of marital and family systems. Marriage
14 and family therapy includes, without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual,
15 family, and divorce therapy. Marriage and family therapy involves an applied
16 understanding of the dynamics of marital and family systems, including individual
17 psychodynamics, the use of assessment instruments that evaluate marital and family
18 functioning, designing and recommending a course of treatment, and the use of
19 psychotherapy and counseling."

20 "(17) 'The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education'
21 means the national accrediting agency for marriage and family therapy education as
22 recognized by the ~~United States Department of Education~~ Council for Higher Education
23 Accreditation."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.