

House Bill 76 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Powell of the 33rd, Oliver of the 82nd, Ehrhart of the 36th, Bennett of the 94th, Hawkins of the 27th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 43 and 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions
2 and businesses and public officers and employees, respectively, so as to change provisions
3 relating to certain occupations and appointments; to repeal Chapter 1A of Title 43, relating
4 to occupational regulation legislation review; to provide for the regulation of bare knuckle
5 boxing matches; to provide for definitions; to authorize the commission to promulgate rules
6 and regulations; to revise provisions relating to education, experience, and training
7 requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy; to provide for the filling of
8 vacancies in certain executive branch positions that were appointed by the Governor; to
9 provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
10 other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,
14 is amended by repealing and reserving Chapter 1A, relating to occupational regulation
15 legislation review.

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SECTION 1A.

16

17 Said title is further amended in Code Section 43-4B-1, relating to definitions, by adding a
18 new paragraph (1.1), by adding a new division to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (20), and
19 by revising paragraph (2) to read as follows:

20 "(1.1) 'Bare knuckle boxing match' means combat between two individuals in which
21 contestants score points in rounds of two or three minutes by striking with wrapped
22 hands, but without padded fists, the head and upper torso of the opponent or by
23 knocking the opponent down and rendering the opponent unconscious or incapable of
24 continuing the contest by such blows, which contest is held in a ring supervised by a
25 referee and scored by three judges.

26 (2) 'Boxing match' means a contest between two individuals in which contestants
27 score points in rounds of two or three minutes by striking with padded fists the head
28 and upper torso of the opponent or by knocking the opponent down and rendering the
29 opponent unconscious or incapable of continuing the contest by such blows, which
30 contest is held in a square ring supervised by a referee and scored by three judges.
31 Such term shall not include a bare knuckle boxing match."

32 "(vi.1) Any bare knuckle boxing match;"

SECTION 1B.

33

34 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

35 "43-4B-18.1.

36 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'qualifying experience' means that an
37 individual has competed in a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, kickboxing,
38 martial arts, or wrestling for cash as a salary, purse, or prize for such participation.

39 (b) The commission shall have jurisdiction over any bare knuckle boxing match which
40 occurs or is held within this state, is filmed in this state, or is broadcast or transmitted in
41 this state.

42 (c) Only an individual that has qualifying experience may participate in a bare knuckle
43 boxing match.

44 (d) Contestants in a bare knuckle boxing match shall be prohibited from strikes with
45 any part of the body other than the hands.

46 (e) Contestants in a bare knuckle boxing match may be allowed, at the discretion of the
47 referee, to clinch one another while standing, provided that striking is active.

48 (f) The commission shall have the authority to license organizations that govern,
49 authorize, and promote bare knuckle boxing matches, to inquire as to compliance, to
50 require license and match fees, and to enforce noncompliance and violations.

51 (g) The commission shall have the duty to safeguard the public health, protect
52 competitors, and provide for competitive matches by determining basic minimum
53 medical and safety requirements based on the nature of the activity and the anticipated
54 level of physical conditioning and training of competitors in bare knuckle boxing
55 matches.

56 (h) In addition to the powers and duties set out in this article, the commission is
57 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to accomplish the purposes of this Code
58 section in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative
59 Procedure Act,' and to enforce the provisions of this Code section."

60 **SECTION 2.**

61 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-10A-13,
62 relating to requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy, as follows:

63 "(a) The education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in marriage and
64 family therapy are as follows:

65 (1) For licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist, a master's degree ~~in~~
 66 from a program in marriage and family therapy or a program including a master's
 67 degree and additional post-master's degree coursework, both of which programs shall
 68 include ~~three courses in marriage and family studies, three courses in marriage and~~
 69 ~~family therapy, three courses in human development, one course in marriage and~~
 70 ~~family therapy ethics, and one course in research~~ coursework as set forth on July 1,
 71 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
 72 Education, or from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
 73 Marriage and Family Therapy Education, which degree shall have been granted by a
 74 recognized educational institution; completion of a one-year practicum in marriage
 75 and family therapy under supervision before or after the granting of the master's
 76 degree, which practicum shall ~~include 500 hours of direct clinical experience in~~
 77 ~~marriage and family therapy and 100 hours of supervision of such experience~~ meet the
 78 minimum number of direct clinical contact hours and supervision hours as set forth on
 79 July 1, 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy
 80 Education; and registration with the board of an acceptable contract for obtaining the
 81 post-master's experience under direction and supervision required for licensure as a
 82 marriage and family therapist; and

83 (2) For licensure as a marriage and family therapist:

84 (A) Licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist and two years of
 85 full-time post-master's experience or its equivalent in the practice of marriage and
 86 family therapy under direction and supervision as an associate marriage and family
 87 therapist, which shall include a minimum of ~~2,000~~ 1,500 hours of direct clinical
 88 experience and 100 hours of supervision of such experience and which shall be
 89 completed within a period of not less than two years and not more than five years;

90 (B) A master's degree from:

91 (i) A a program in ~~any specialty~~ marriage and family therapy;

92 (ii) A program in clinical counseling, clinical social work, any allied profession,
 93 applied child and family development, or applied sociology;; provided, however,
 94 that, on and after July 1, 2025, any such degree program or additional
 95 post-master's degree coursework shall include courses equivalent to those of a
 96 marriage and family therapy degree program; or

97 (iii) Any from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
 98 Marriage and Family Therapy Education,
 99 which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution, and
 100 shall include, as part of the degree program or as additional post-master's degree
 101 coursework, at least two courses in marriage and family studies, two courses in
 102 marriage and family therapy, and, after July 1, 2000, one course in marriage and
 103 family therapy ethics; and three years' full-time post-master's experience or its
 104 equivalent under direction and supervision in the practice of any specialty, which
 105 shall include a minimum of 2,500 1,800 hours of direct clinical experience, one year
 106 of which may have been in an approved practicum before or after the granting of the
 107 master's degree which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical
 108 experience meet the minimum number of direct clinical contact hours and
 109 supervision hours as set forth on July 1, 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation
 110 for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, and two years of which shall have been
 111 in the practice of marriage and family therapy which shall include a minimum of
 112 2,000 1,500 hours of direct clinical experience, and 200 hours of supervision of such
 113 experience all of which shall be completed within a period of not less than three
 114 years and not more than five years; or

115 (C) A doctorate degree from:

116 (i) A a program in any specialty marriage and family therapy;

117 (ii) A program in clinical counseling, clinical social work, any allied profession,
 118 applied child and family development, or applied sociology;; provided, however,

119 that, on and after July 1, 2025, any such doctorate degree program or additional
 120 post-master's degree coursework shall include courses equivalent to those of a
 121 marriage and family therapy degree program; or
 122 (iii) Any from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
 123 Marriage and Family Therapy Education,
 124 which degree shall have been granted by a recognized educational institution; and
 125 shall include, as part of a master's or doctoral degree program or as additional
 126 postgraduate degree coursework, at least two courses in marriage and family studies,
 127 two courses in marriage and family therapy, and, after July 1, 2000, one course in
 128 marriage and family therapy ethics; two years' full-time post-master's experience
 129 under direction in the practice of marriage and family therapy which shall include a
 130 minimum of ~~1,500~~ 1,000 hours of direct clinical experience, one year of which may
 131 have been in an approved internship program before or after the granting of the
 132 doctoral degree, which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical
 133 experience meet the minimum number of direct clinical contact hours and
 134 supervision hours as set forth on July 1, 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation
 135 for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, and one year of which shall have been
 136 full-time post-master's experience, which shall include a minimum of ~~1,000~~ 700
 137 hours of direct clinical experience; and 100 hours of supervision of such experience
 138 in the practice of marriage and family therapy, 50 hours of which may have been
 139 obtained while a student or intern in an accredited doctoral program."

140 **SECTION 3.**

141 Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and
 142 employees, is amended by revising Code Section 45-5-1, relating to when offices deemed
 143 vacated, filling vacancy, notice, and appeal, as follows:

144 "45-5-1.

145 (a) All offices in the state shall be vacated:

146 (1) By the death of the incumbent;

147 (2) By resignation, when accepted;

148 (3) By decision of a competent tribunal declaring the office vacant;

149 (4) By voluntary act or misfortune of the incumbent whereby he or she is placed in
150 any of the specified conditions of ineligibility to office;

151 (5) By the incumbent ceasing to be a resident of the state or of the county, circuit, or
152 district for which he or she was elected;

153 (6) By failing to apply for and obtain commissions or certificates or by failing to
154 qualify or give bond, or both, within the time prescribed by the laws and Constitution
155 of Georgia; or

156 (7) By abandoning the office or ceasing to perform its duties, or both.

157 (b) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in any office in the state, the officer or body
158 authorized to fill the vacancy or call for an election to fill the vacancy shall do so
159 without the necessity of a judicial determination of the occurrence of the vacancy.

160 Before doing so, however, the officer or body shall give at least ten days' notice to the
161 person whose office has become vacant, except that such notice shall not be required in
162 the case of a vacancy caused by death, final conviction of a felony, or written
163 resignation. The decision of the officer or body to fill the vacancy or call an election to
164 fill the vacancy shall be subject to an appeal to the superior court; and nothing in this
165 subsection shall affect any right of any person to seek a judicial determination of the
166 eligibility of any person holding office in the state. The provisions of this subsection
167 shall apply both to vacancies occurring under this Code section and to vacancies
168 occurring under other laws of this state.

169 (c) Any Governor appointed seat of an executive branch board, commission, or council
170 shall be filled by appointment of the Governor as provided by law when the seat

171 becomes vacant upon term expiration or when declared vacant by the Governor
172 pursuant to this Code section."

173 **SECTION 4.**

174 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become
175 effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such
176 approval.

177 (b) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

178 **SECTION 5.**

179 Nothing in this bill shall add any additional requirements or restrictions to clinical
180 pastoral counselors.

181 **SECTION 6.**

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