

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 279  
Second Edition Engrossed 4/2/15

Short Title: Amend Qualifications/Practice of Counseling. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Barefoot (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 16, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS ACT TO MODIFY  
3 EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRACTICE OF COUNSELING.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-336(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) The Board shall issue a license as a "licensed professional counselor associate" to an  
7 applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

8 "(1) Has earned a specified minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter  
9 minimum of credit hours of graduate training as defined by the Board,  
10 including a master's degree in counseling or a related field from an  
11 institution of higher education that is: (i) a regionally accredited institution  
12 of higher education regionally accredited or (ii) accredited by an  
13 organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation,  
14 as follows:

- 15 a. if If the applicant enrolled in the master's program before July 1,  
16 2009;2009, a minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter minimum  
17 of credit hours.  
18 b. If the applicant enrolled in the master's program before July 1, 2013,  
19 but after June 30, 2009, a minimum of 54 semester hours or 81  
20 quarter credit hours.  
21 c. If the applicant enrolled in the master's program after June 30, 2013,  
22 a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter credit hours. of  
23 graduate training as defined by the Board, including a master's  
24 degree in counseling or a related field from a regionally accredited  
25 institution of higher education if the applicant enrolled in the master's  
26 program before July 1, 2013, but after June 30, 2009; or a minimum  
27 of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter credit hours of graduate training  
28 as defined by the Board, including a master's degree in counseling or  
29 a related field from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
30 education if the applicant enrolled in the master's program after June  
31 30, 2013.

32 (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-367, s. 6, effective October 1, 2009.

33 (3) Has passed an examination in accordance with rules adopted by the Board."

34 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.



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