

**NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.**



HOUSE BILL 26-1228

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Stewart R. and Feret, Bacon, Brown, Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Duran, Garcia, Jackson, Lieder, Lindsay, Marshall, Nguyen, Ricks, Rutinel, Rydin, Sirota, Story;  
also SENATOR(S) Danielson, Carson, Cutter, Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp, Marchman, Sullivan, Coleman.

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

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

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

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

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

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

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

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

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

(d) Subsequent to completing the applicant's master's or doctoral degree, has had at least two years of post-master's or one year of postdoctoral practice in individual and marriage and family therapy, including at least one thousand five hundred hours, OR, FOR AN APPLICANT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION, SEVEN HUNDRED HOURS IN ADDITION TO THE HOURS REQUIRED FOR AN APPLICANT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, of face-to-face direct client contact as determined by the board for the purpose of assessment and intervention under clinical supervision that may be in person or THROUGH telesupervision; and

**SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless

approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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James Rashad Coleman, Sr.  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Vanessa Reilly  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Esther van Mourik  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and Time)

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Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO