

SENATE NO. 120

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCREASING CONSUMER ACCESS TO LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1.

2 Section 22 of chapter 32A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph,
3 as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and inserting in place thereof
4 the following paragraph:--

5 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a licensed
6 physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent
7 clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse mental health clinical
8 specialist, or a licensed marriage and family therapist within the lawful scope of practice for such
9 therapist.

10 SECTION 2. Section 47B of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out
11 the next to last paragraph, as most recently amended by section 2 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and
12 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

13 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a licensed
14 physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent
15 clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse mental health clinical
16 specialist, or a licensed marriage and family therapist within the lawful scope of practice for such
17 therapist.

18 SECTION 3. Section 8A of chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out
19 the next to last paragraph, as most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and
20 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

21 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a licensed
22 physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent
23 clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse mental health clinical
24 specialist, or a licensed marriage and family therapist within the lawful scope of practice for such
25 therapist.

26 SECTION 4. Section 4A of 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the next
27 to last paragraph, as most recently amended by section 6 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and
28 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

29 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a licensed
30 physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent

31 clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse mental health clinical
32 specialist, or a licensed marriage and family therapist within the lawful scope of practice for such
33 therapist.

34 SECTION 5. Section 4M of 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the next
35 to last paragraph, as most recently amended by section 10 of chapter 80 of the acts of 2000, and
36 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:--

37 For the purposes of this section, "licensed mental health professional" shall mean a licensed
38 physician who specializes in the practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent
39 clinical social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed nurse mental health clinical
40 specialist, or a licensed marriage and family therapist within the lawful scope of practice for such
41 therapist.