

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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SENATE BILL 279

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 minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter credit hours of
9 graduate training as defined by the Board, including a master's degree in
10 counseling or a related field from a regionally or nationally accredited
11 institution of higher education if the applicant enrolled in the master's
12 program before July 1, 2009; a minimum of 54 semester hours or 81 quarter
13 credit hours of graduate training as defined by the Board, including a
14 master's degree in counseling or a related field from a regionally or
15 nationally accredited institution of higher education if the applicant enrolled
16 in the master's program before July 1, 2013, but after June 30, 2009; or a
17 minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter credit hours of graduate
18 training as defined by the Board, including a master's degree in counseling
19 or a related field from a regionally or nationally accredited institution of
20 higher education if the applicant enrolled in the master's program after June
21 30, 2013.

22 (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-367, s. 6, effective October 1, 2009.

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

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



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