

Senate Bill No. 564

CHAPTER 481

An act to amend Sections 2914, 4980.41, 4980.80, 4980.90, 4996.2, and 4996.17 of, to amend, repeal, and add Sections 2915 and 4996.22 of, and to add Section 4980.57 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

[Approved by Governor September 11, 2002. Filed with Secretary of State September 12, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 564, Speier. Healing arts: training in spousal or partner abuse treatment.

Existing law provides for the licensing and regulation of psychologists; marriage, family, and child counselors; and social workers. Under existing law, an applicant for licensure in these professions is required to complete certain coursework or training in order to be eligible to sit for the licensing examination, including coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. Existing law also requires these professionals to participate in continuing education as a prerequisite for renewing their license. A violation of the laws regulating these professionals is a crime.

This bill would require an applicant for licensure as a psychologist; marriage, family, and child counselor; or social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, to complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies. The bill would also require a person licensed in these professions who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2004, to take a continuing education course in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies. The bill would specify that this continuing education provision becomes operative on January 1, 2004.

Because a violation of the bill's requirements would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2914 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2914. Each applicant for licensure shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(a) Is not subject to denial of licensure under Division 1.5.

(b) Possess an earned doctorate degree (1) in psychology, (2) in education psychology, or (3) in education with the field of specialization in counseling psychology or educational psychology. Except as provided in subdivision (g), this degree or training shall be obtained from an accredited university, college, or professional school.

No educational institution shall be denied recognition as an accredited academic institution solely because its program is not accredited by any professional organization of psychologists, and nothing in this chapter or in the administration of this chapter shall require the registration with the board by educational institutions of their departments of psychology or their doctoral programs in psychology.

An applicant for licensure trained in an educational institution outside the United States or Canada shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that he or she possesses a doctorate degree in psychology that is equivalent to a degree earned from a regionally accredited university in the United States or Canada. These applicants shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), and any other documentation the board deems necessary.

(c) Have engaged for at least two years in supervised professional experience under the direction of a licensed psychologist, the specific requirements of which shall be defined by the board in its regulations, or under suitable alternative supervision as determined by the board in regulations duly adopted under this chapter, at least one year of which shall be after being awarded the doctorate in psychology. If the supervising licensed psychologist fails to provide verification to the board of the experience required by this subdivision within 30 days after being so requested by the applicant, the applicant may provide written verification directly to the board.

If the applicant sends verification directly to the board, the applicant shall file with the board a declaration of proof of service, under penalty of perjury, of the request for verification. A copy of the completed verification forms shall be provided to the supervising psychologist and the applicant shall prove to the board that a copy has been sent to the supervising psychologist by filing a declaration of proof of service under



penalty of perjury, and shall file this declaration with the board when the verification forms are submitted.

Upon receipt by the board of the applicant's verification and declarations, a rebuttable presumption affecting the burden of producing evidence is created that the supervised, professional experience requirements of this subdivision have been satisfied. The supervising psychologist shall have 20 days from the day the board receives the verification and declaration to file a rebuttal with the board.

The authority provided by this subdivision for an applicant to file written verification directly shall apply only to an applicant who has acquired the experience required by this subdivision in the United States.

The board shall establish qualifications by regulation for supervising psychologists and shall review and approve applicants for this position on a case-by-case basis.

(d) Take and pass the examination required by Section 2941 unless otherwise exempted by the board under this chapter.

(e) Show by evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she has completed training in the detection and treatment of alcohol and other chemical substance dependency. This requirement applies only to applicants who matriculate on or after September 1, 1985.

(f) (1) Show by evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she has completed coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This requirement applies to applicants who began graduate training during the period commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2003.

(2) An applicant who began graduate training on or after January 1, 2004, shall show by evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she has completed a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. An applicant may request an exemption from this requirement if he or she intends to practice in an area that does not include the direct provision of mental health services.

(3) Coursework required under this subdivision may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course. This requirement for coursework shall be satisfied by, and the board shall accept in satisfaction of the requirement, a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated that the required coursework is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation.



(g) An applicant holding a doctoral degree in psychology from an approved institution is deemed to meet the requirements of this section if all of the following are true:

(1) The approved institution offered a doctoral degree in psychology designed to prepare students for a license to practice psychology and was approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education on or before July 1, 1999.

(2) The approved institution has not, since July 1, 1999, had a new location, as described in Section 94721 of the Education Code.

(3) The approved institution is not a franchise institution, as defined in Section 94729.3 of the Education Code.

SEC. 2. Section 2915 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2915. (a) Except as provided in this section, on or after January 1, 1996, the board shall not issue any renewal license unless the applicant submits proof that he or she has completed no less than 18 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding year. On or after January 1, 1997, except as provided in this section, the board shall issue renewal licenses only to those applicants who have completed 36 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two years.

(b) Each person renewing his or her license issued pursuant to this chapter shall submit proof of compliance with this section to the board. False statements submitted pursuant to this section shall be a violation of Section 2970.

(c) A person applying for relicensure or for reinstatement to an active license status shall certify under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section.

(d) (1) The continuing education requirement shall include, but shall not be limited to, courses required pursuant to Sections 25 and 28. The requirement may include courses pursuant to Sections 32 and 2914.1 and those in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention.

(2) In the event the board establishes a requirement for continuing education coursework in spousal or partner abuse detection or treatment, that requirement shall be met by each licensee within no more than four years from the date the requirement is imposed.

(3) Continuing education instruction approved to meet the requirements of this section shall be completed within the State of California, or shall be approved for continuing education credit by the American Psychological Association or its equivalent as approved by the board.

(e) The board may establish a policy for exceptions from the continuing education requirement of this section.



(f) The board may recognize continuing education courses that have been approved by one or more private nonprofit organizations that have at least 10 years' experience managing continuing education programs for psychologists on a statewide basis, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Maintaining and managing related records and data.
- (2) Monitoring and approving courses.

(g) The board shall adopt regulations as necessary for implementation of this section.

(h) A licensed psychologist shall choose continuing education instruction that is related to the assessment, diagnosis, and intervention for the client population being served or to the fields of psychology in which the psychologist intends to provide services, that may include new theoretical approaches, research, and applied techniques. Continuing education instruction shall include required courses specified in subdivision (d).

(i) A psychologist shall not practice outside his or her particular field or fields of competence as established by his or her education, training, continuing education, and experience.

(j) The administration of this section may be funded through professional license fees and continuing education provider and course approval fees, or both. The fees related to the administration of this section shall not exceed the costs of administering the corresponding provisions of this section.

(k) Continuing education credit may be approved for those licensees who serve as commissioners on any examination pursuant to Section 2947, subject to limitations established by the board.

(l) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2004, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which is enacted before January 1, 2004, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 3. Section 2915 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2915. (a) Except as provided in this section, on or after January 1, 1996, the board shall not issue any renewal license unless the applicant submits proof that he or she has completed no less than 18 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding year. On or after January 1, 1997, except as provided in this section, the board shall issue renewal licenses only to those applicants who have completed 36 hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two years.

(b) Each person renewing his or her license issued pursuant to this chapter shall submit proof of compliance with this section to the board. False statements submitted pursuant to this section shall be a violation of Section 2970.



(c) A person applying for relicensure or for reinstatement to an active license status shall certify under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section.

(d) (1) The continuing education requirement shall include, but shall not be limited to, courses required pursuant to Sections 25 and 28. The requirement may include courses pursuant to Sections 32 and 2914.1.

(2) (A) The board shall require a licensed psychologist who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2004, to take a continuing education course during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies taken prior to the operative date of this section or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the board and at its discretion, may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement.

(B) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required under subdivision (a).

(C) A licensed psychologist whose practice does not include the direct provision of mental health services may apply to the board for an exemption from the requirements of this paragraph.

(3) Continuing education instruction approved to meet the requirements of this section shall be completed within the State of California, or shall be approved for continuing education credit by the American Psychological Association or its equivalent as approved by the board.

(e) The board may establish a policy for exceptions from the continuing education requirement of this section.

(f) The board may recognize continuing education courses that have been approved by one or more private nonprofit organizations that have at least 10 years' experience managing continuing education programs for psychologists on a statewide basis, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Maintaining and managing related records and data.
- (2) Monitoring and approving courses.

(g) The board shall adopt regulations as necessary for implementation of this section.

(h) A licensed psychologist shall choose continuing education instruction that is related to the assessment, diagnosis, and intervention for the client population being served or to the fields of psychology in which the psychologist intends to provide services, that may include new theoretical approaches, research, and applied techniques.



Continuing education instruction shall include required courses specified in subdivision (d).

(i) A psychologist shall not practice outside his or her particular field or fields of competence as established by his or her education, training, continuing education, and experience.

(j) The administration of this section may be funded through professional license fees and continuing education provider and course approval fees, or both. The fees related to the administration of this section shall not exceed the costs of administering the corresponding provisions of this section.

(k) Continuing education credit may be approved for those licensees who serve as commissioners on any examination pursuant to Section 2947, subject to limitations established by the board.

(l) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2004.

SEC. 4. Section 4980.41 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4980.41. All applicants for licensure shall complete the following coursework or training in order to be eligible to sit for the licensing examinations:

(a) A two semester or three quarter unit course in California law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of study:

(1) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory, and decisional laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice.

(2) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family therapy, including family law.

(3) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health profession.

(4) The psychotherapist/patient privilege, confidentiality, the patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.

(5) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner's sense of self and human values and his or her professional behavior and ethics.

This course may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirements contained in Section 4980.40.

(b) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(c) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. When coursework in a master's or doctor's



degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section 4980.40.

(d) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 1986, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include specific instruction in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as specified by regulation. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section 4980.40.

(e) For persons who began graduate study during the period commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2003, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Coursework required under this subdivision may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course. The requirement for coursework shall be satisfied by, and the board shall accept in satisfaction of the requirement, a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated that the required coursework is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation.

(f) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychological testing. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section 4980.40.

(g) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section 4980.40.

(h) The requirements added by subdivisions (f) and (g) are intended to improve the educational qualifications for licensure in order to better prepare future licentiates for practice, and are not intended in any way



to expand or restrict the scope of licensure for marriage and family therapists.

SEC. 5. Section 4980.57 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4980.57. (a) The board shall require a licensee who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2004, to take a continuing education course during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies taken prior to the operative date of this section or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the board and at its discretion, may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement.

(b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required under paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4980.54.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2004.

SEC. 6. Section 4980.80 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4980.80. The board may issue a license to any person who, at the time of application, has held for at least two years a valid license issued by a board of marriage counselor examiners, marriage therapist examiners, or corresponding authority of any state, if the education and supervised experience requirements are substantially the equivalent of this chapter and the person successfully completes the written and oral licensing examinations administered in this state and pays the fees specified. Issuance of the license is further conditioned upon the person's completion of the following coursework or training:

(a) A two semester or three quarter unit course in California law and professional ethics for marriage, family, and child counselors that shall include areas of study as specified in Section 4980.41.

(b) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(c) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(d) A minimum of 15 contact hours of training or coursework in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as specified by regulation.



(e) (1) Instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This instruction may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(2) On and after January 1, 2004, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies.

(f) On and after January 1, 2003, a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychological testing. This course may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(g) On and after January 1, 2003, a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology. This course may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(h) With respect to human sexuality, alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency, spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention, psychological testing, and psychopharmacology, the board may accept training or coursework acquired out of state.

SEC. 7. Section 4980.90 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4980.90. (a) Experience gained outside of California shall be accepted toward the licensure requirements if it is substantially equivalent to that required by this chapter and if the applicant has gained a minimum of 250 hours of supervised experience in direct counseling within California while registered as an intern with the board.

(b) Education gained outside of California shall be accepted toward the licensure requirements if it is substantially equivalent to the education requirements of this chapter, and if the applicant has completed all of the following:

(1) A two semester or three quarter unit course in California law and professional ethics for marriage, family, and child counselors that shall include areas of study as specified in Section 4980.41.

(2) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(3) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in sexuality as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(4) A minimum of 15 contact hours of training or coursework in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as specified by regulation.



(5) (1) Instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This instruction may be taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(2) On and after January 1, 2004, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies.

(6) On and after January 1, 2003, a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychological testing. This course may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(7) On and after January 1, 2003, a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology. This course may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(8) With respect to human sexuality, alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency, spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention, psychological testing, and psychopharmacology, the board may accept training or coursework acquired out of state.

(c) For purposes of this section, the board may, in its discretion, accept education as substantially equivalent if the applicant has been granted a degree in a single integrated program primarily designed to train marriage, family, and child counselors and if the applicant's education meets the requirements of Sections 4980.37 and 4980.40. The degree title and number of units in the degree program need not be identical to those required by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40. If the applicant's degree does not contain the number of units required by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40, the board may, in its discretion, accept the applicant's education as substantially equivalent if the applicant's degree otherwise complies with this section and the applicant completes the units required by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40.

SEC. 8. Section 4996.2 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4996.2. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she complies with all of the following requirements:

(a) Is at least 21 years of age.

(b) Has received a master's degree from an accredited school of social work.

(c) Has had two years of supervised post-master's degree experience, as specified in Section 4996.20, 4996.21, or 4996.23.

(d) Has not committed any crimes or acts constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480. The board shall not issue a registration or license to any person who has been convicted of any crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves



sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory.

(e) Has completed adequate instruction and training in the subject of alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency. This requirement applies only to applicants who matriculate on or after January 1, 1986.

(f) Has completed instruction and training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This requirement applies to an applicant who began graduate training during the period commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2003. An applicant who began graduate training on or after January 1, 2004, shall complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Coursework required under this subdivision may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course. This requirement for coursework shall be satisfied by, and the board shall accept in satisfaction of the requirement, a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated that the required coursework is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation.

(g) Has completed a minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 1807 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. This training or coursework may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(h) Has completed a minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 1807.2 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. This training or coursework may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

SEC. 9. Section 4996.17 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4996.17. (a) Experience gained outside of California shall be accepted toward the licensure requirements if it is substantially the equivalent of the requirements of this chapter. The board may issue a license to any person who, at the time of application, has held a valid license, issued by a board of clinical social work examiners or corresponding authority of any state, for two years if the education and supervised experience requirements are substantially the equivalent of this chapter and the person successfully completes the written and oral licensing examinations administered in this state and pays the required



fees. Issuance of the license is conditioned upon the person's completion of the following coursework and training:

(1) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(2) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(3) A minimum of 15 contact hours of training or coursework in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency, as specified by regulation.

(4) (A) Instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This instruction may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

(B) On and after January 1, 2004, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies.

(5) With respect to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), the board may accept training or coursework acquired out of state.

(b) A person who qualifies for licensure based on experience gained outside California may apply for and receive an associate registration to practice clinical social work.

SEC. 10. Section 4996.22 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4996.22. (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (c), on and after January 1, 2000, the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that he or she has completed not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of social work in the preceding two years, as determined by the board.

(2) For those persons renewing during 1999, the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that he or she has completed not less than 18 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of social work, as determined by the board. The coursework of continuing education described in this paragraph may be taken on or after the effective date of the continuing education regulations adopted by the board pursuant to the other provisions of this section.

(b) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.



(c) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing education requirement of this section for good cause as defined by the board.

(d) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the following sources:

(1) An accredited school of social work, as defined in Section 4990.4, or a school or department of social work that is a candidate for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part of a regular degree program.

(2) Other continuing education providers, including, but not limited to, a professional social work association, a licensed health facility, a governmental entity, a continuing education unit of an accredited four-year institution of higher learning, and a mental health professional association, approved by the board.

(3) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for approving providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of continuing education, as described in paragraphs (1) and (2), shall adhere to the procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with the requirements of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

(e) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers shall incorporate one or more of the following:

(1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding, or the practice, of social work.

(2) Aspects of the social work discipline in which significant recent developments have occurred.

(3) Aspects of other related disciplines that enhance the understanding, or the practice, of social work.

(f) A system of continuing education for licensed clinical social workers shall include courses directly related to the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being served.

(g) The continuing education requirements of this section shall comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs pursuant to Section 166.

(h) The board may adopt regulations as necessary to implement this section.

(i) The board shall submit a report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2001, evaluating the progress of continuing education required by this section, and making recommendations therefor.



(j) On and after January 1, 1997, the board shall, by regulation, fund the administration of this section through continuing education provider fees to be deposited in the Behavioral Science Examiners Fund. The fees related to the administration of this section shall be sufficient to meet but shall not exceed the costs of administering the corresponding provisions of this section. For purposes of this subdivision, a provider of continuing education as described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d), shall be deemed to be an approved provider.

(k) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2004, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which is enacted before January 1, 2004, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 11. Section 4996.22 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4996.22. (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (c), on and after January 1, 2000, the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that he or she has completed not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of social work in the preceding two years, as determined by the board.

(2) For those persons renewing during 1999, the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that he or she has completed not less than 18 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of social work, as determined by the board. The coursework of continuing education described in this paragraph may be taken on or after the effective date of the continuing education regulations adopted by the board pursuant to the other provisions of this section.

(3) The board shall not renew any license of an applicant who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2004, pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board that during the applicant's first renewal period after the operative date of this section, he or she completed a continuing course in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies taken prior to the operative date of this section or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the board and at its discretion, may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement. Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required under paragraph (1).



(b) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.

(c) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing education requirement of this section for good cause as defined by the board.

(d) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the following sources:

(1) An accredited school of social work, as defined in Section 4990.4, or a school or department of social work that is a candidate for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part of a regular degree program.

(2) Other continuing education providers, including, but not limited to, a professional social work association, a licensed health facility, a governmental entity, a continuing education unit of an accredited four-year institution of higher learning, and a mental health professional association, approved by the board.

(3) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for approving providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of continuing education, as described in paragraphs (1) and (2), shall adhere to the procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with the requirements of this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

(e) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers shall incorporate one or more of the following:

(1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding, or the practice, of social work.

(2) Aspects of the social work discipline in which significant recent developments have occurred.

(3) Aspects of other related disciplines that enhance the understanding, or the practice, of social work.

(f) A system of continuing education for licensed clinical social workers shall include courses directly related to the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being served.

(g) The continuing education requirements of this section shall comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs pursuant to Section 166.



(h) The board may adopt regulations as necessary to implement this section.

(i) The board shall submit a report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2001, evaluating the progress of continuing education required by this section, and making recommendations therefor.

(j) On and after January 1, 1997, the board shall, by regulation, fund the administration of this section through continuing education provider fees to be deposited in the Behavioral Science Examiners Fund. The fees related to the administration of this section shall be sufficient to meet but shall not exceed the costs of administering the corresponding provisions of this section. For purposes of this subdivision, a provider of continuing education as described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d), shall be deemed to be an approved provider.

(k) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2004.

SEC. 12. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

