

3-6-97 State Gov  
3-13-97 Do Pass

FILED MAR 6 1997  
4-7-97 Referred Back  
State Gov.

SENATE FILE **337**  
BY LUNDBY

(COMPANION TO LSB 1036HH  
BY WITT)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for mandatory licensure for marital and family  
2 therapists and mental health counselors.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 337

1 Section 1. Section 147.2, Code 1997, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 147.2 LICENSE REQUIRED.

4 A person shall not engage in the practice of medicine and  
5 surgery, podiatry, osteopathy, osteopathic medicine and  
6 surgery, psychology, chiropractic, physical therapy, nursing,  
7 dentistry, dental hygiene, optometry, speech pathology,  
8 audiology, occupational therapy, respiratory care, pharmacy,  
9 cosmetology, barbering, social work, dietetics, marital and  
10 family therapy or mental health counseling, or mortuary  
11 science or shall not practice as a physician assistant as  
12 defined in the following chapters of this subtitle, unless the  
13 person has obtained from the department a license for that  
14 purpose.

15 Sec. 2. Section 154D.4, Code 1997, is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 154D.4 EXEMPTIONS.

18 This chapter and chapter 147 do not prevent qualified  
19 members of other professions, including but not limited to  
20 nurses, psychologists, social workers, physicians, attorneys-  
21 at-law, or members of the clergy, from providing or  
22 advertising that they provide services of a marital and family  
23 therapy or mental health counseling nature consistent with the  
24 accepted standards of their respective professions, but these  
25 persons shall not use a title or description denoting that  
26 they are licensed marital and family therapists or licensed  
27 mental health counselors, and shall not offer to practice or  
28 practice marital and family therapy or mental health  
29 counseling beyond the scope of their respective professions  
30 without obtaining a license pursuant to this chapter.

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill provides for the mandatory licensure of  
33 individuals engaged in the professional practice of marital  
34 and family therapy or mental health counseling. Title  
35 requirements have previously been established in Code chapter

1 154D, regarding qualification to utilize the professional  
2 designation of marital and family therapist or mental health  
3 counselor, but that chapter does not mandate licensing in  
4 order to practice. The bill adds marital and family therapy  
5 and mental health counseling to the list of professions for  
6 which a license is required in Code section 147.2. The bill  
7 also provides that members of other professions authorized to  
8 provide marital and family therapy or mental health counseling  
9 services within the scope of their own profession pursuant to  
10 Code section 154D.4 shall not practice marital and family  
11 therapy or mental health counseling beyond that scope without  
12 obtaining licensure under Code chapter 154D.

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