

**ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1148**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 22, 2012  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Gloor  
**One Liner:** Change certification provisions for marriage and family therapists

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Bloomfield, Campbell, Cook, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Lambert  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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| <b>Proponents:</b><br>Senator Mike Gloor<br>Anne Buettner | <b>Representing:</b><br>District #35<br>Nebraska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy |
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| <b>Opponents:</b> | <b>Representing:</b> |
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| <b>Neutral:</b> | <b>Representing:</b> |
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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

The bill requires applicants for certification as marriage and family therapists to furnish evidence of at least 1,500 hours of direct-client contact during the 5 years preceding application for certification. LB 1148 provides at least 100 hours of supervisor-supervisee contact hours shall be with a qualified supervisor and that supervision occur at least one hour per week, or 2 hours every 2 weeks. These requirements are to be part of, not in addition to, the 3,000 hours of experience currently required by the statute.

In addition, the bill defines "qualified supervisor." It creates a new subdivision (i), which provides that in order to be a qualified supervisor, a licensed mental health practitioner, a psychologist licensed to practice psychology, or a licensed physician must hold a designation of approved supervisor from an association which establishes standards for marriage and family therapy. The bill, also, creates a new subdivision (ii) which provides that a "qualified supervisor" must be a licensed marriage and family therapist who has practiced for five years and completed a five hour supervision course established by standards for marriage and family therapist supervisors.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee Amendment clarifies that:

- > The supervisor-supervisee contact hours shall be completed during the course of the 3,000 hours of supervised experience;
  - > The standards set in rules and regulations are both approved by the board and promulgated by the Department; and
  - > Removes "licensed" from the bill because marriage and family therapy is a certification, not an additional license.
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Kathy Campbell, Chairperson