SENATE BILL NO. 1156

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CASKEY.

Read 1st time January 26, 2004, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4258S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 337.500, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to licensed professional counselors.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 337.500, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 337.500, to read as follows:

337.500. As used in sections 337.500 to 337.540, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following words and phrases mean:

(1) "Committee", the committee for professional counselors;

(2) "Department", the Missouri department of economic development;

(3) "Director", the director of the division of professional registration in the department of economic development;

(4) "Division", the division of professional registration;

(5) "Licensed professional counselor", any person who offers to render professional counseling services to individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, corporations, government agencies or the general public for a fee, monetary or otherwise, implying that the person is trained, experienced, and licensed in counseling, and who holds a current, valid license to practice counseling;

(6) "Practice of professional counseling", rendering, offering to render, or supervising those who render to individuals, couples, groups, organizations, institutions, corporations, schools, government agencies, or the general public any counseling service involving the application of counseling procedures, and the principles and methods thereof, to assist in achieving more effective intrapersonal or interpersonal, marital, decisional, social, educational, vocational, developmental, or rehabilitative adjustments;

(7) "Professional counseling", includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The use of verbal or nonverbal counseling or both techniques, methods, or procedures based on principles for assessing, understanding, or influencing behavior (such

as principles of learning, conditioning, perception, motivation, thinking, emotions, or social systems);

(b) Appraisal**, diagnosis,** or assessment, which means selecting, administering, scoring, or interpreting instruments designed to assess a person's or group's aptitudes, intelligence, attitudes, abilities, achievement, interests, and personal characteristics **and the identification of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders based upon assessment of the symptoms presented and observed characteristics**;

(c) The use of referral or placement techniques or both which serve to further the goals of counseling;

(d) Therapeutic vocational or personal or both rehabilitation in relation to coping with or adapting to physical disability, emotional disability, or intellectual disability or any combination of the three;

(e) Designing, conducting, and interpreting research;

(f) The use of group methods or techniques to promote the goals of counseling;

(g) The use of informational and community resources for career, personal, or social development;

(h) Consultation on any item in paragraphs (a) through (g) above; and

(i) No provision of sections 337.500 to 337.540, or of chapter 354 or 375, RSMo, shall be construed to mandate benefits or third-party reimbursement for services of professional counselors in the policies or contracts of any insurance company, health services corporation or other third-party payer;

(8) "Provisional licensed professional counselor", any person who is a graduate of an acceptable educational institution, as defined by division rules, with at least a master's degree with a major in counseling, or its equivalent, and meets all requirements of a licensed professional counselor, other than the supervised counseling experience prescribed by subdivision (1) of section 337.510, and who is supervised by a person who is qualified for the practice of professional counseling.