

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 249

2 INTRODUCED BY S. VINTON

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REMOVING AN EXEMPTION FROM AN EXAMINATION  
5 REQUIREMENT FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSING; AND AMENDING SECTION  
6 37-37-201, MCA."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **Section 1.** Section 37-37-201, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"37-37-201. License requirements -- exemptions.** (1) An applicant for a license shall pay an  
12 application fee set by the board by rule. The board may provide a separate, combined fee for persons licensed  
13 by the board holding dual licenses. An applicant for a license under this section shall also complete an application  
14 on a form provided by the department and provide documentation to the board that the applicant:

15 (a) (i) has a master's degree or a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a recognized  
16 educational institution or a degree from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage  
17 and family therapy education; or

18 (ii) has a graduate degree in an allied field from a recognized educational institution and graduate level  
19 work that the board determines to be the equivalent of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy or  
20 marriage and family counseling;

21 (b) has successfully passed an examination prescribed by the board;

22 (c) has worked under the direct supervision of a qualified supervisor for at least 3,000 hours, including  
23 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact in the practice of marriage and family therapy, of which up to 500 hours  
24 may be accumulated while achieving the educational credentials listed in subsection (1)(a); and

25 (d) is of good moral character. Being of good moral character includes in its meaning that the applicant  
26 has not been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a crime described by board rule as being of a  
27 nature that renders the applicant unfit to practice marriage and family therapy.

28 (2) As a prerequisite to the issuance of a license, the board shall require the applicant to submit  
29 fingerprints for the purpose of fingerprint checks by the Montana department of justice and the federal bureau  
30 of investigation as provided in 37-1-307.

