

CF 7r0568

By: Delegates Hubbard and Nathan-Pulliam

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations - Alcohol and Drug Counselors - Certification**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain qualifications for certification as a certified associate
4 counselor-alcohol and drug; altering certain qualifications for the waiver of certain
5 requirements for certification as a certified professional counselor-alcohol and
6 drug, certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug, and certified supervised
7 counselor-alcohol and drug; correcting certain erroneous titles; providing for the
8 effective date of this Act; and generally relating to the qualifications for
9 certification as an alcohol and drug counselor.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Health Occupations
12 Section 17-302.4 and 17-306(c)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Chapter 577 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1996
17 Section 2

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2

1 **Article - Health Occupations**

2 17-302.4.

3 To qualify as a certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug an applicant shall:

4 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution
5 approved by the Board in a health or human services counseling field or have completed
6 a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter
7 and extent of training to such a program of studies;

8 (2) Have completed not less than 3 years, with a minimum of 2,000 hours of
9 supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling approved by the Board, 2 years of
10 which shall have been completed after the award of the bachelor's degree;

11 (3) Have a minimum of 20 credit hours in alcohol and drug counselor
12 training as defined in § 17-302.3(d)(4) of this title; and

13 (4) (I) Practice alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision of a
14 certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug or another health care provider
15 approved by the Board; OR

16 (II) PROVIDE ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING AS AN EMPLOYEE
17 OF AN AGENCY OR FACILITY THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION ON
18 ACCREDITATION OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS OR THAT IS CERTIFIED UNDER
19 TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

20 17-306.

21 (c) (1) The Board shall waive the requirements for certification as a certified
22 professional counselor-alcohol and drug under § 17-302.3 of this subtitle for any person
23 who:

24 (i) Has filed a letter of intent with the Board by July 1, [1997] 1998;

25 (ii) Holds a master's or doctoral degree in a health and human services
26 counseling field or has completed a program that the Board determines to be
27 substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as a master's or doctoral
28 degree in a health and human services counseling field;

29 (iii) As of July 1, [1996] 1997, is certified as a certified chemical
30 dependency counselor [or certified clinical supervisor], ITS EQUIVALENT, OR HIGHER
31 by the Maryland Addiction Counselor Certification Board, ANOTHER STATE, THE
32 CERTIFICATION COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM
33 AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS, OR THE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION
34 RECIPROCITY CONSORTIUM, OR IS EMPLOYED IN THE CAPACITY OF A PROGRAM
35 SPECIALIST I, II, III, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, OR HIGHER, IF THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED
36 BY THE STATE, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, OR AN ENTITY THAT
37 PROVIDES ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING SERVICES UNDER CONTRACT WITH
38 THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE; ~~AND~~

39 (iv) Has completed not less than 3 years with a minimum of 3,000 hours
40 of supervised experience in alcohol and drug abuse counseling approved by the Board, 2

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1 years of which shall have been completed after the award of the master's or doctoral
2 degree ¶; and

3 (v) Has, by July 1, 2001, successfully passed an examination approved
4 by the Board¶.

5 (2) The Board shall waive the requirements for certification as a certified
6 associate counselor-alcohol and drug for any person who has filed a letter of intent with
7 the Board by July 1, [1997] 1998 if:

8 (i) ¶The person holds a bachelor's degree in a health or human
9 services counseling field or has completed a program that the Board determines to be
10 substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to a bachelor's degree in
11 a health or human services counseling field;

12 (ii)¶ The person, as of July 1, [1996] 1997, is certified as a certified
13 chemical dependency counselor [or certified clinical supervisor], ITS EQUIVALENT, OR
14 HIGHER, by the Maryland Addiction Counselor Certification Board, ANOTHER STATE,
15 THE CERTIFICATION COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
16 ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS, OR THE INTERNATIONAL
17 CERTIFICATION RECIPROCITY CONSORTIUM, or is employed in the capacity of a
18 Program Specialist I, II, [or] III, or its equivalent, OR HIGHER, if the person is employed
19 by the State, a political subdivision of the State, or an entity that provides alcohol and
20 drug counseling services under contract with the State or a political subdivision of the
21 State; and

22 ¶(iii)¶ ~~(H)~~ The person has completed not less than 3 years with a
23 minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised experience in alcohol and drug abuse counseling
24 approved by the Board ¶, 2 years of which shall have been completed after the award of
25 the bachelor's degree¶ OR A PROGRAM THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES TO BE
26 SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN SUBJECT MATTER AND EXTENT OF TRAINING.

27 (3) The Board shall waive the requirements for certification as a certified
28 supervised counselor-alcohol and drug for any person who has filed a letter of intent with
29 the Board by July 1, [1997] 1998 if ¶:

30 (i) The person holds an associate's degree in health or human services
31 counseling or has completed a program that the Board determines to be substantially
32 equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to an associate's degree in health or
33 human services counseling; or

34 (ii) The¶ ~~THE~~ person, AS OF JULY 1, 1997, is certified as a certified
35 alcoholism counselor [or], certified drug counselor, OR HIGHER, by the Maryland
36 Addiction Counselor Certification Board, ANOTHER STATE, THE CERTIFICATION
37 COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
38 COUNSELORS, OR THE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION RECIPROCITY
39 CONSORTIUM, or is employed in the capacity of an Addiction Counselor II or III, or its
40 equivalent, OR HIGHER, if the person is employed by the State, a political subdivision of
41 the State, or an entity that provides alcohol and drug counseling services under contract
42 with the State or a political subdivision of the State.

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1 **Chapter 577 of the Acts of 1996**

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding whether
3 the services are provided within the scope of practice of a certified professional
4 [counselor-drug and alcohol therapist] COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG, a certified
5 [counselor-drug and alcohol therapist] ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND
6 DRUG, or a certified [associate counselor-drug and alcohol therapist] SUPERVISED
7 COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG, nothing in this Act may be construed to require a
8 nonprofit health service plan, insurer, health maintenance organization, or person acting
9 as a third party administrator to reimburse a certified professional [counselor-drug and
10 alcohol therapist] COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG, a certified [counselor-drug and
11 alcohol therapist] SUPERVISED COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG, or a certified
12 associate [counselor-drug and alcohol therapist] COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 ~~October~~ June 1, 1997.