
By: Delegate Hubbard

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Professional Counselors - Scope of Practice**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "alcohol and drug counseling" under the
4 Maryland Professional Counselors Act (Act) to include, as to a certified
5 professional counselor-alcohol and drug, certain assistance through the
6 identification and assessment of client needs; altering the definition of "appraisal"
7 under the Act to authorize the use of certain methods and techniques for the
8 purpose of therapeutic intervention; altering the definition of "counseling" under
9 the Act to provide that certain assistance is based on an identification and
10 assessment of client needs; and generally relating to the practice of professional
11 counseling.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Health Occupations
14 Section 17-101
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Health Occupations**

20 17-101.

21 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (b) "Alcohol and drug counseling" means assisting an individual, family, or group
23 through the client-counselor relationship:

24 (1) To develop understanding of intrapersonal and interpersonal substance
25 abuse problems;

26 (2) To define goals relating to substance abuse;

27 (3) To make decisions relating to substance abuse;

28 (4) To plan a course of action reflecting the needs, interests, and abilities of
29 the individual, family, or group relating to substance abuse; [and]

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1 (5) To use informational and community substance abuse resources relating
2 to personal, social, emotional, educational, and vocational development and adjustment;
3 AND

4 (6) AS TO A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND
5 DRUG, TO IDENTIFY AND ASSESS CLIENT NEEDS.

6 (c) "Appraisal" means:

7 (1) Selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting instruments designed
8 to assess an individual's aptitudes, attitudes, abilities, achievements, interests, and
9 personal characteristics; and

10 (2) Using nonstandardized methods and techniques for understanding
11 human behavior in relation to coping with, adapting to, or changing life situations FOR
12 THE PURPOSE OF THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION.

13 (d) "Board" means the State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

14 (e) "Certificate" means a certificate issued by the Board to practice professional
15 counseling.

16 (f) "Certified professional counselor" means a professional counselor who is
17 certified by the Board.

18 (g) "Counseling" means assisting an individual, family, or group, BASED ON AN
19 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF CLIENT NEEDS, through the client-counselor
20 relationship:

21 (1) To develop understanding of intrapersonal and interpersonal problems;

22 (2) To define goals;

23 (3) To make decisions;

24 (4) To plan a course of action reflecting the needs, interests, and abilities of
25 the individual, family, or group; and

26 (5) To use informational and community resources, as these procedures are
27 related to personal, social, emotional, educational, and vocational development and
28 adjustment.

29 (h) "Marriage and family therapy" means applying marriage and family systems
30 theory, principles, methods, therapeutic techniques, and research in:

31 (1) Resolving emotional conflict and modifying perception and behavior in
32 the context of marriage and family life; and

33 (2) The identification and assessment of client needs and the
34 implementation of therapeutic intervention.

35 (i) (1) "Certified supervised counselor-alcohol and drug" means an individual
36 who is certified by the Board to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State
37 pursuant to the limitations in § 17-302.4 of this title.

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1 (2) "Certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug" means an individual
2 who is certified by the Board to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State
3 pursuant to the limitations in § 17-302.5 of this title.

4 (3) "Certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug" means an individual
5 who is certified by the Board to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State.

6 (j) "Certified professional counselor-marriage and family therapist" means an
7 individual who is certified by the Board to practice marriage and family therapy in the
8 State.

9 (k) "Practice alcohol and drug counseling" means to engage professionally and for
10 compensation in alcohol and drug counseling activities while representing oneself to be a
11 certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug, a certified supervised
12 counselor-alcohol and drug, or a certified assistant counselor-alcohol and drug.

13 (l) "Practice marriage and family therapy" means to engage professionally and
14 for compensation in marriage and family therapy activities while representing oneself to
15 be a certified professional counselor-marriage and family therapist.

16 (m) "Practice professional counseling" means to engage professionally and for
17 compensation in counseling and appraisal activities while representing oneself to be a
18 professional counselor.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 1997.