
By: Delegate Hubbard

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 24, 1997

CHAPTER ____

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; providing that certain individuals who meet certain
11 qualifications may apply to the Board for a certain certificate authorizing the
12 individual to provide certain services; and generally relating to the practice of
13 professional counseling.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Health Occupations
16 Section 17-101
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article - Health Occupations
21 Section 17-302.6
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

2

1 **Article - Health Occupations**

2 17-101.

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

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

6 (1) To develop understanding of intrapersonal and interpersonal substance
7 abuse problems;

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

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

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

12 (5) To use informational and community substance abuse resources relating
13 to personal, social, emotional, educational, and vocational development and adjustment;
14 AND

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

17 (c) "Appraisal" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (2) To define goals;

34 (3) To make decisions;

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

3

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

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

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

8 (2) The identification and assessment of client needs and the
9 implementation of therapeutic intervention.

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

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

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

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

21 (k) "Practice alcohol and drug counseling" means to engage professionally and for
22 compensation in alcohol and drug counseling activities while representing oneself to be a
23 certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug, a certified supervised
24 counselor-alcohol and drug, or a certified assistant counselor-alcohol and drug.

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

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

31 17-302.6

32 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY RENDER DIAGNOSES BASED ON A RECOGNIZED
33 MANUAL OF MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DISORDERS AND USE PSYCHOTHERAPY TO
34 TREAT DISORDERS IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL
35 ENDORSEMENT FROM THE BOARD.

36 (B) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL ENDORSEMENT
37 TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

38 (1) IS A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR, A CERTIFIED
39 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR-MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, OR A CERTIFIED
40 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG; AND

1 (2) HAS DOCUMENTATION EVIDENCING THE COMPLETION OF 60 HOURS
2 OF GRADUATE COURSE WORK, INCLUDING TRAINING IN PERSONALITY
3 DEVELOPMENT, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL
4 DISORDERS, PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, AND PSYCHOTHERAPY FROM AN ACCREDITED
5 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

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