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1997 Regular Session
7lr0568

CF 7lr0569

By: Senator Collins

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

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; and generally
8 relating to the qualifications for certification as an alcohol and drug counselor.

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

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

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 17-302.4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 17-306.

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

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

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

19 (iii) As of July 1, [1996] 1997, is certified as a certified chemical
20 dependency counselor [or certified clinical supervisor] , ITS EQUIVALENT, OR HIGHER
21 by the Maryland Addiction Counselor Certification Board, ANOTHER STATE, THE
22 CERTIFICATION COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM
23 AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS, OR THE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION
24 RECIPROCITY CONSORTIUM, OR IS EMPLOYED IN THE CAPACITY OF A PROGRAM
25 SPECIALIST I, II, III, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, OR HIGHER, IF THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED
26 BY THE STATE, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, OR AN ENTITY THAT
27 PROVIDES ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING SERVICES UNDER CONTRACT WITH
28 THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE; AND

29 (iv) Has completed not less than 3 years with a minimum of 3,000 hours
30 of supervised experience in alcohol and drug abuse counseling approved by the Board, 2
31 years of which shall have been completed after the award of the master's or doctoral
32 degree [; and

33 (v) Has, by July 1, 2001, successfully passed an examination approved
34 by the Board].

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

38 (i) [The person holds a bachelor's degree in a health or human
39 services counseling field or has completed a program that the Board determines to be
40 substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to a bachelor's degree in
41 a health or human services counseling field;

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

[(iii)] (II) The person has completed not less than 3 years with a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised experience in alcohol and drug abuse counseling approved by the Board [, 2 years of which shall have been completed after the award of the bachelor's degree].

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

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

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

Chapter 577 of the Acts of 1996

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

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

