

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 522 (Senator Collins)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

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

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This enrolled bill provides that an alcohol and drug counselor who meets current law educational, experience, and training requirements and is employed by an agency that is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or certified by the State qualifies for certification as an associate counselor-alcohol and drug. Individuals qualify for certification if (1) they file a letter of intent with the Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors by July 1, 1998; (2) as of July 1, 1997, they were certified by another state, the Certificate Commission of the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, the International Certification Reciprocity Consortium, or are employed by the State in a specified capacity or through a State contract to provide alcohol and drug counseling services; and (3) they satisfy other existing law requirements. A certified associate counselor - alcohol and drug or a certified supervised counselor - alcohol and drug must be appointed by the Governor to serve as an advisor to the board.

The bill takes effect June 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures would increase by an indeterminate minimal amount annually beginning in FY 1998. No effect on special fund revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. The cost of complying with the certification requirements for some small business or self-employed substance abuse counselors could decline as a result of this bill.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Revenues:** Individuals who satisfy the certification requirement as a result of this bill would still have to pay the certification fee to the State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. Consequently, special fund revenues for the board would not be affected.

**State Expenditures:** Special fund expenditures would increase by an indeterminate minimal amount in fiscal 1998 due to the cost of reimbursing the board advisor. Currently, each board member is reimbursed a per diem rate of \$50 for each board meeting attended. It is anticipated that the board advisor would be reimbursed at the same rate. The total reimbursement would depend on the number of meetings attended.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration); Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 1997  
ncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 1997  
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