
By: **Delegate Kelly**
Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2003
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Counselors-Alcohol and Drug - Certification - Waiver Requirements**
3 **Deadlines**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the dates by which a person seeking waiver of the
5 requirements for certification as a certified professional counselor-alcohol and
6 drug, associate counselor-alcohol and drug, or supervised counselor-alcohol and
7 drug by the State Board of Professional Counselors must meet certain criteria;
8 and generally relating to deadlines for waiver requirements for certification for
9 counselors-alcohol and drug.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Health Occupations
12 Section 17-306(c)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Health Occupations**

18 17-306.

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

22 (i) Has filed a letter of intent with the Board by October 1, [2001]
23 2003;

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

1 (iii) As of July 1, [2001] 2003, is certified as a certified chemical
2 dependency counselor, its equivalent, or higher by the Maryland Addiction Counselor
3 Certification Board, another state, the Certification Commission of the National
4 Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, or the International
5 Certification Reciprocity Consortium, or is employed in the capacity of a Program
6 Specialist I, II, III, or its equivalent, or higher, in an agency or facility accredited by
7 the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or certified
8 under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health - General Article;

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

13 (v) Has, by October 1, [2001] 2003, successfully passed an
14 examination approved by the Board.

15 (2) The Board shall waive the requirements for certification as a
16 certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug for any person who has filed a letter of
17 intent with the Board by October 1, [2001] 2003 if:

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

22 (ii) The person, as of July 1, [2001] 2003, is certified as a certified
23 chemical dependency counselor, its equivalent, or higher, by the Maryland Addiction
24 Counselor Certification Board, another state, the Certification Commission of the
25 National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, or the International
26 Certification Reciprocity Consortium, or is employed in the capacity of a Program
27 Specialist I, II, III, or its equivalent, or higher, in an agency or facility accredited by
28 the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or certified
29 under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health - General Article; and

30 (iii) The person has completed not less than 3 years with a
31 minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised experience in alcohol and drug abuse
32 counseling approved by the Board, 2 years of which shall have been completed after
33 the award of the bachelor's degree or a program that the Board determines to be
34 substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training.

35 (3) The Board shall waive the requirements for certification as a
36 certified supervised counselor-alcohol and drug for any person who has filed a letter
37 of intent with the Board by October 1, [2001] 2003 if:

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

1 (ii) The person, as of July 1, [2001] 2003, is certified as a certified
2 alcoholism counselor, certified drug counselor, or higher, by the Maryland Addiction
3 Counselor Certification Board, another state, the Certification Commission of the
4 National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, or the International
5 Certification Reciprocity Consortium, or is employed in the capacity of an Addiction
6 Counselor II or III, or its equivalent, or higher, in an agency or facility accredited by
7 the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or certified
8 under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health - General Article.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 July 1, 2003.