

SENATE BILL 882

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8lr3074

By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2008

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Certified Associate Counselor–Alcohol and Drug – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Professional Counselors and
4 Therapists to waive a certain requirement that an applicant for a certificate to
5 practice as an associate counselor–alcohol and drug complete a certain number
6 of hours of supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling after the award
7 of a bachelor’s degree if the applicant has obtained certain experience approved
8 by the Board; and generally relating to qualifications for certified associate
9 counselors–alcohol and drug.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health Occupations
12 Section 17–302.4
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 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 17–302.4.

19 (A) To qualify as a certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug an
20 applicant shall:

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

6 (4) (i) Practice alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision
7 of a certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug or another health care provider
8 approved by the Board; or

9 (ii) Provide alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an
10 agency or facility that is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
11 Healthcare Organizations or that is certified under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health –
12 General Article.

13 **(B) THE BOARD MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN APPLICANT**
14 **COMPLETE 2 YEARS OF SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG**
15 **COUNSELING AFTER THE AWARD OF THE APPLICANT'S BACHELOR'S DEGREE**
16 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION IF THE APPLICANT, PRIOR TO THE**
17 **AWARD OF THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE, OBTAINED A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS**
18 **EXPERIENCE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING APPROVED BY THE BOARD.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2008.