

SENATE BILL 882

J2

8lr3074

By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2008

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 22, 2008

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2008

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Certified Professional, Associate Counselor, and Supervised**
3 **Counselors—Alcohol and Drug – Qualifications**

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

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health Occupations
14 Section ~~17-302.4~~ 17-302.3, 17-302.4, and 17-302.5
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Health Occupations
19 Section 17-302.6
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Health Occupations**

4 17–302.3.

5 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, to qualify as a certified
6 professional counselor–alcohol and drug an applicant shall meet the requirements of §
7 17–302 of this subtitle.

8 (b) The applicant shall be of good moral character.

9 (c) The applicant shall be at least 18 years old.

10 (d) (1) The applicant shall hold a master’s or doctoral degree in a health
11 and human services counseling field from an accredited educational institution that is
12 approved by the Board or have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to
13 be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as required under
14 this section.

15 (2) The applicant shall have completed a minimum of 25 credit hours
16 in alcohol and drug counselor training.

17 (3) The applicant shall have completed not less than 3 years with a
18 minimum of 2,000 hours of CLINICALLY supervised experience in alcohol and drug
19 counseling approved by the Board, 2 years of which shall have been completed after
20 the award of the master’s or doctoral degree or its substantial equivalent, AS
21 DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

22 (4) In this subsection, “alcohol and drug counselor training” includes
23 but is not limited to instruction in:

24 (i) Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

25 (ii) Group counseling;

26 (iii) Individual counseling;

27 (iv) Family counseling;

28 (v) Assessment and treatment planning;

29 (vi) Ethics for alcohol and drug counselors;

30 (vii) Human development;

1 (viii) Abnormal psychology; and

2 (ix) Courses pertaining to counselor core functions of screening,
3 intake, orientation, case management, crisis intervention, education and prevention,
4 referral, consultation, reports and record keeping, and special alcohol and drug
5 dependency topics.

6 17-302.4.

7 ~~(A)~~ To qualify as a certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug an
8 applicant shall:

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

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

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

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

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

26 17-302.5.

27 To qualify as a certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug an applicant
28 shall:

29 (1) Hold an associate’s degree in a health or human services
30 counseling field or have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be
31 substantially equivalent in subject matter to such a program of studies;

32 (2) Have completed not less than 2 years, with a minimum of 2,000
33 hours of **CLINICALLY** supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling approved
34 by the Board, 1 year of which shall have been completed after the award of the
35 associate’s degree;

1 (3) Have a minimum of 15 credit hours in alcohol and drug counselor
2 training as defined in § 17-302.3(d)(4) of this subtitle; and

3 (4) 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 and provide alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an
6 agency or facility which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
7 Healthcare Organizations or that is certified under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health –
8 General Article.

9 **17-302.6.**

10 ~~(B)~~ **THE BOARD MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN APPLICANT**
11 **UNDER § 17-302.3, § 17-302.4, OR § 17-302.5 OF THIS SUBTITLE COMPLETE 2**
12 **~~YEARS~~ THE REQUISITE AMOUNT OF CLINICALLY SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE IN**
13 **ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING AFTER THE AWARD OF THE APPLICANT’S**
14 **~~BACHELOR’S REQUIRED DEGREE UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION~~**
15 **IF THE APPLICANT, PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE ~~BACHELOR’S~~ REQUIRED**
16 **DEGREE, OBTAINED A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS OF CLINICALLY SUPERVISED**
17 **EXPERIENCE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING APPROVED BY THE BOARD.**

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.