

CHAPTER 630

(Senate Bill 882)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section ~~17-302.4~~ 17-302.3, 17-302.4, and 17-302.5

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations

Section 17-302.6

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

17-302.3.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

(ii) Group counseling;

(iii) Individual counseling;

(iv) Family counseling;

(v) Assessment and treatment planning;

(vi) Ethics for alcohol and drug counselors;

(vii) Human development;

(viii) Abnormal psychology; and

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

17-302.4.

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

(1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board in a health or human services counseling field or have

completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to such a program of studies;

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

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

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

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

17-302.5.

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

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

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

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

(4) Practice alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision of a certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug or another health care provider approved by the Board and provide alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an agency or facility which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or that is certified under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health – General Article.

17-302.6.

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2008.