

# SENATE BILL 575

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CF HB 629

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By: **Senator Nathan–Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 17, 2015

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Qualifications and**  
3 **Practice Limitations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications individuals are required to meet to be  
5 licensed to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling, to qualify to practice as a  
6 licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor under supervision for a limited period  
7 of time, to qualify as a certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug, or to qualify  
8 as a certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug; requiring a certified associate  
9 counselor–alcohol and drug to practice under the supervision of a Board–approved  
10 alcohol and drug supervisor who meets certain requirements; providing that a  
11 certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug may only provide counseling as an  
12 employee of a certain agency or facility and under the supervision of a certain  
13 supervisor; prohibiting a certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug from  
14 practicing independently; requiring a certified supervised counselor–alcohol and  
15 drug to practice under the supervision of a Board–approved alcohol and drug  
16 supervisor who meets certain requirements; providing that a certified supervised  
17 counselor–alcohol and drug may only provide counseling as an employee of a certain  
18 agency or facility and under the supervision of a certain supervisor; prohibiting a  
19 certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug from providing supervision or  
20 practicing independently; making conforming and clarifying changes; and generally  
21 relating to qualifications for and practice of alcohol and drug counselors.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Health Occupations

24 Section 17–302, 17–309(a) and (c), 17–403, and 17–404

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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 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2014 Replacement Volume)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
4 Article – Health Occupations  
5 Section 17–309(b)  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2014 Replacement Volume)

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

10 **Article – Health Occupations**

11 17–302.

12 (a) To qualify for a license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling, an  
13 applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

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

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

16 (d) (1) Except as provided in § 17–305 of this subtitle, the applicant shall **AT**  
17 **A MINIMUM:**

18 (i) Hold a master’s or doctoral degree in a health and human  
19 services counseling field from **[an] A REGIONALLY** accredited educational institution that  
20 is approved by the Board; or

21 (ii) **[Have] HOLD A MASTER’S DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY**  
22 **ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND HAVE** completed a program of studies  
23 judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter **[and extent of**  
24 **training]** as required under this section.

25 (2) **[(i)]** In the case of an applicant holding a doctoral degree, the  
26 applicant shall have completed a minimum of 90 graduate credit hours approved by the  
27 Board.

28 (ii) In the case of an applicant holding only a master’s degree, the]  
29 **THE** applicant shall have completed a minimum of 60 **[graduate] SEMESTER** credit hours  
30 **OR 90 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS** approved by the Board.

31 (3) The applicant shall have completed a minimum of **[26] ~~36~~ 39**  
32 **SEMESTER** credit hours **OR ~~60~~ 65 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS** in alcohol and drug  
33 counselor training, including:

1                   **(I) A 3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR OR 5 QUARTER CREDIT HOUR**  
 2 **COURSE TAKEN AT A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN**  
 3 **EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:**

4                   **[(i)] 1. Medical aspects of chemical dependency;**

5                   **[(ii)] 2. Group counseling;**

6                   **[(iii)] 3. Individual counseling;**

7                   **[(iv)] 4. Family counseling;**

8                   **[(v)] 5. [Assessment and treatment planning] ADDICTIONS**  
 9 **TREATMENT DELIVERY;**

10                   **[(vi)] 6. Ethics [for alcohol and drug counselors] THAT INCLUDES**  
 11 **ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING ISSUES;**

12                   **[(vii)] 7. Human development;**

13                   **[(viii)] 8. Abnormal psychology; [and]**

14                   **9. THEORIES OF COUNSELING;**

15                   **10. TREATMENT OF CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS; AND**

16                   **[(ix) Courses pertaining to counselor core functions of screening,**  
 17 **intake, orientation, case management, crisis intervention, education and prevention,**  
 18 **referral, consultation, reports and record keeping, and special alcohol and drug dependency**  
 19 **topics]**

20                   **11. TOPICS IN SUBSTANCE-RELATED AND ADDICTIVE**  
 21 **DISORDERS; AND**

22                   **(II) AN INTERNSHIP IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING THAT**  
 23 **TOTALS 6 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS OR 10 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS.**

24           (e) The applicant shall [have]:

25                   **(1) HAVE** completed not less than **[3] 2** years with a minimum of 2,000  
 26 hours of supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling [approved by the Board, 2  
 27 years of], which shall have been completed after the award of the master's or doctoral  
 28 degree [or its substantial equivalent]; **AND**

1           **(2) PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION AS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD**  
2 **EVIDENCING THE COMPLETION OF THE POSTGRADUATE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**  
3 **UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

4           (f) The applicant shall provide documentation to the Board evidencing the  
5 completion of 60 hours of graduate course work, completed at [an] **A REGIONALLY**  
6 **accredited [college or university] EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION** approved by the Board  
7 that included training in:

8           (1) Personality development;

9           (2) Diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders;

10          (3) Psychopathology; and

11          (4) Psychotherapy [in alcohol and drug disorders].

12          [(g) The applicant shall provide documentation evidencing the completion of 2  
13 years of postgraduate supervised clinical experience as required by the Board.]

14          **[(h) (G) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass [an]:**

15           **(1) AN examination approved by the Board; AND**

16           **(2) THE LAW EXAMINATION ON THIS TITLE ADMINISTERED BY THE**  
17 **BOARD.**

18 17-309.

19          (a) The Board may adopt regulations to allow an individual to practice under  
20 **CLINICAL** supervision as a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed  
21 graduate marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional counselor, or a  
22 licensed graduate professional art therapist.

23          (b) To qualify to practice as a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a  
24 licensed graduate marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional  
25 counselor, or a licensed graduate professional art therapist, an individual shall be:

26           (1) Of good moral character; and

27           (2) At least 18 years old.

28          (c) An individual may practice graduate alcohol and drug counseling under  
29 supervision for a limited period of time if the individual has:

1 (1) [A] AT A MINIMUM, A master's or doctoral degree in a health and  
2 human services counseling field [that meets the educational requirements of § 17-302 of  
3 this subtitle] FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; [and]

4 (2) A MINIMUM OF ~~48~~ 27 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS OR ~~72~~ 18  
5 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR TRAINING,  
6 INCLUDING:

7 (I) A 3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR OR 5 QUARTER CREDIT HOUR  
8 COURSE TAKEN AT A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN  
9 EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 10 1. MEDICAL ASPECTS OF CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY;
- 11 2. ADDICTIONS TREATMENT DELIVERY;
- 12 3. ETHICS THAT INCLUDES ALCOHOL AND DRUG  
13 COUNSELING ISSUES;
- 14 4. ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY;
- 15 5. GROUP COUNSELING; AND
- 16 6. INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING; AND

17 (II) ANY THREE OF THE FOLLOWING 3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR  
18 OR 5 QUARTER CREDIT HOUR COURSES TAKEN AT A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED  
19 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION:

- 20 1. FAMILY COUNSELING;
- 21 2. THEORIES OF COUNSELING;
- 22 3. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT;
- 23 4. TOPICS IN SUBSTANCE-RELATED AND ADDICTIVE  
24 DISORDERS; AND
- 25 5. TREATMENT OF CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS; AND

26 [(2)] (3) Passed [the National Alcohol and Drug Counselor Examination]:

27 (I) A NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR  
28 EXAMINATION approved by the Board; AND

**(II) THE LAW EXAMINATION ON THIS TITLE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD.**

17-403.

(a) Except as provided in § 17-405 of this subtitle, to qualify as a certified associate counselor—alcohol and drug, an applicant shall:

(1) **BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER;**

(2) **AT A MINIMUM:**

(I) Hold a bachelor's degree from [an] **A REGIONALLY** accredited educational institution approved by the Board in a health and human services counseling field; or

(II) **HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND** 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)] (3) Have completed not less than [3 years,] **1 YEAR** 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]; **AND**

[(3)] (4) Have a minimum of [21] **33 SEMESTER** credit hours **OR 50 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS** in alcohol and drug counselor training, including [instruction in]:

(I) **A 3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR OR 5 QUARTER CREDIT HOUR COURSE TAKEN AT A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:**

[(i)] 1. Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

2. **ADDICTIONS TREATMENT DELIVERY;**

[(ii)] 3. Group counseling;

[(iii)] 4. Individual counseling;

[(iv)] Family counseling;

(v) Assessment and treatment planning;

1 (vi) **5. Ethics [for alcohol and drug counselors] THAT INCLUDES**  
2 **ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING ISSUES; AND**

3 [(vii) Human development;

4 (viii)] **6. Abnormal psychology; and**

5 **(II) ANY THREE OF THE FOLLOWING 3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR**  
6 **OR 5 QUARTER CREDIT HOUR COURSES TAKEN AT A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED**  
7 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION:**

8 **1. FAMILY COUNSELING;**

9 **2. THEORIES OF COUNSELING;**

10 **3. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT;**

11 **4. TOPICS IN SUBSTANCE-RELATED AND ADDICTIVE**  
12 **DISORDERS; AND**

13 **5. TREATMENT OF CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS; AND**

14 **(III) AN INTERNSHIP IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING THAT**  
15 **TOTALS 6 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS OR 10 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS.**

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

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

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

26 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass [an]:

27 **(1) AN examination approved by the Board under this title; AND**

28 **(2) THE LAW EXAMINATION ON THIS TITLE ADMINISTERED BY THE**  
29 **BOARD.**

1           **(C) A CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR–ALCOHOL AND DRUG SHALL**  
 2 **PRACTICE ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A**  
 3 **BOARD–APPROVED ALCOHOL AND DRUG SUPERVISOR WHO IS:**

4           **(1) A LICENSED CLINICAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR;**

5           **(2) A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR–ALCOHOL AND DRUG;**

6           **(3) A LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR;**

7           **(4) A LICENSED CLINICAL MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST;**

8           **(5) A LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL ART THERAPIST; OR**

9           **(6) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE WITH**  
 10 **DOCUMENTED EXPERTISE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING.**

11           **(D) A CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR–ALCOHOL AND DRUG:**

12           **(1) MAY PROVIDE ONLY:**

13                   **(I) ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING AS AN EMPLOYEE OF AN**  
 14 **AGENCY OR A FACILITY THAT IS CERTIFIED OR LICENSED BY THE STATE;**

15                   **(II) ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING UNDER THE**  
 16 **SUPERVISION OF A BOARD–APPROVED SUPERVISOR AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION**  
 17 **(C) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

18                   **(III) SUPERVISION WITH APPROVAL BY THE BOARD; AND**

19           **(2) MAY NOT PRACTICE INDEPENDENTLY.**

20 17–404.

21           (a) To qualify as a certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug, an applicant  
 22 shall:

23           **(1) BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER;**

24           **(2) AT A MINIMUM:**

25                   **(I) Hold an associate’s degree FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED**  
 26 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION in a health and human services counseling field; or**





1                   **4. THEORIES OF COUNSELING;**

2                   **5. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT;**

3                   **6. ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY;**

4                   **7. TOPICS IN SUBSTANCE-RELATED AND ADDICTIVE**  
5 **DISORDERS; AND**

6                   **8. TREATMENT OF CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS; AND**

7                   **(III) AN INTERNSHIP IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING THAT**  
8 **TOTALS 6 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS OR 10 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS.**

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

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

18                   (b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass [an]:

19                   **(1) AN examination approved by the Board under this title; AND**

20                   **(2) THE LAW EXAMINATION ON THIS TITLE ADMINISTERED BY THE**  
21 **BOARD.**

22                   **(C) A CERTIFIED SUPERVISED COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG SHALL**  
23 **PRACTICE ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A**  
24 **BOARD-APPROVED ALCOHOL AND DRUG SUPERVISOR WHO IS:**

25                   **(1) A LICENSED CLINICAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR;**

26                   **(2) A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG;**

27                   **(3) A CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG;**

28                   **(4) A LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR;**

29                   **(5) A LICENSED CLINICAL MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST;**

1           **(6) A LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL ART THERAPIST; OR**

2           **(7) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE WITH**  
3 **DOCUMENTED EXPERTISE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING.**

4           **(D) A CERTIFIED SUPERVISED COUNSELOR–ALCOHOL AND DRUG:**

5           **(1) MAY PROVIDE ONLY:**

6                   **(I) ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING AS AN EMPLOYEE OF AN**  
7 **AGENCY OR FACILITY THAT IS CERTIFIED OR LICENSED BY THE STATE; AND**

8                   **(II) ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING UNDER THE**  
9 **SUPERVISION OF A BOARD–APPROVED SUPERVISOR AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION**  
10 **(C) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

11           **(2) MAY NOT:**

12                   **(I) PROVIDE SUPERVISION; OR**

13                   **(II) PRACTICE INDEPENDENTLY.**

14           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15           October 1, 2015.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.