

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 1652

(Delegates Pena-Melnyk and West)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Health Occupations - Certified Supervised Counselors-Alcohol and Drug - Qualifications**

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This emergency bill authorizes an applicant for the certified supervised counselor – alcohol and drug (CSC-AD) credential to substitute supervised work experience as specified in regulation in lieu of satisfying the required internship in alcohol and drug counseling.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any additional workload on the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists can be handled using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not affect local governmental operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A CSC-AD (1) must practice counseling under the supervision of a board-approved alcohol and drug supervisor who holds one of seven specified professional licenses and (2) may only provide counseling as an employee of an agency or facility that is certified or licensed by the State. To qualify as a CSC-AD, an applicant must:

- be of good moral character;
- either hold an associate's degree in a health and human services counseling field or hold an associate's degree having completed a program of studies judged by the board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter;

- have a minimum of 24 semester credit hours or 37 quarter credit hours including specified courses as well as an internship in alcohol and drug counseling that totals 6 semester credit hours or 10 quarter credit hours; and
- pass a law examination administered by the board and another examination approved by the board.

The internship requirement was enacted under Chapter 368 of 2015. Current regulations do not specify any supervised work experience requirements in order to obtain certification as a CSC-AD.

**Background:** The State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists licenses and certifies professional counselors, alcohol and drug counselors, marriage and family therapists, art therapists, and behavior analysts; receives and resolves complaints regarding professional counselors and therapists; and sets standards for the practice of professional counseling through regulations and legislation.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2017  
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