

# HOUSE BILL 248

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EMERGENCY BILL

8lr0043

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By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health)**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Certified Associate Counselors–Alcohol and Drug and**  
3 **Certified Supervised Counselors–Alcohol and Drug – Qualifications**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing an applicant, in order to qualify as a certified associate  
5 counselor–alcohol and drug or a certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug, to  
6 complete supervised work experience as specified in regulation in lieu of satisfying a  
7 certain internship requirement; making a technical correction; making this Act an  
8 emergency measure; and generally relating to qualifications of certified associate  
9 counselors–alcohol and drug and certified supervised counselors–alcohol and drug.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Health Occupations  
12 Section 17–403 and 17–404  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Health Occupations**

18 17–403.

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

21 (1) Be of good moral character;

22 (2) At a minimum:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational  
2 institution approved by the Board in a health and human services counseling field; or

3 (ii) Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational  
4 institution and have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially  
5 equivalent in subject matter;

6 (3) Have completed not less than 1 year with a minimum of 2,000 hours of  
7 clinically supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling approved by the Board; and

8 (4) Have a minimum of 33 semester credit hours or 50 quarter credit hours  
9 in alcohol and drug counselor training, including:

10 (i) A 3 semester credit hour or 5 quarter credit hour course taken at  
11 a regionally accredited educational institution in each of the following:

- 12 1. Medical aspects of chemical dependency;
- 13 2. Addictions treatment delivery;
- 14 3. Group counseling;
- 15 4. Individual counseling;
- 16 5. Ethics that includes alcohol and drug counseling issues;
- 17 and
- 18 6. Abnormal psychology; [and]

19 (ii) Any three of the following 3 semester credit hour or 5 quarter  
20 credit hour courses taken at a regionally accredited educational institution:

- 21 1. Family counseling;
- 22 2. Theories of counseling;
- 23 3. Human development;
- 24 4. Topics in substance-related and addictive disorders; and
- 25 5. Treatment of co-occurring disorders; and

26 (iii) [An] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, AN**  
27 internship in alcohol and drug counseling that totals 6 semester credit hours or 10 quarter  
28 credit hours.

29 **(B) IN LIEU OF SATISFYING THE INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENT IN**

1 SUBSECTION (A)(4)(III) OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT MAY COMPLETE  
2 SUPERVISED WORK EXPERIENCE AS SPECIFIED IN REGULATION.

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

4 (1) An examination approved by the Board under this title; and

5 (2) The law examination on this title administered by the Board.

6 [(c)] (D) A certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug shall practice alcohol  
7 and drug counseling under the supervision of a Board–approved alcohol and drug  
8 supervisor who is:

9 (1) A licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor;

10 (2) A certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug;

11 (3) A licensed clinical professional counselor;

12 (4) A licensed clinical marriage and family therapist;

13 (5) A licensed clinical professional art therapist; or

14 (6) A health care provider licensed under this article with documented  
15 expertise in alcohol and drug counseling.

16 [(d)] (E) A certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug:

17 (1) May provide only:

18 (i) Alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an agency or a  
19 facility that is certified or licensed by the State;

20 (ii) Alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision of a  
21 Board–approved supervisor as specified in subsection [(c)] (D) of this section; and

22 (iii) Supervision with approval by the Board; and

23 (2) May not practice independently.

24 17–404.

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

27 (1) Be of good moral character;

1 (2) At a minimum:

2 (i) Hold an associate's degree from a regionally accredited  
3 educational institution in a health and human services counseling field; or

4 (ii) Hold an associate's degree from a regionally accredited  
5 educational institution and have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be  
6 substantially equivalent in subject matter; and

7 (3) Have a minimum of 24 semester credit hours or 37 quarter credit hours  
8 including:

9 (i) A 3 semester credit hour or 5 quarter credit hour course taken at  
10 a regionally accredited educational institution in each of the following courses:

11 1. Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

12 2. Addictions treatment delivery; and

13 3. Ethics that includes alcohol and drug counseling issues;

14 (ii) Any three of the following 3 semester credit hour or 5 quarter  
15 credit hour courses taken at a regionally accredited educational institution:

16 1. Group counseling;

17 2. Individual counseling;

18 3. Family counseling;

19 4. Theories of counseling;

20 5. Human development;

21 6. Abnormal psychology;

22 7. Topics in substance-related and addictive disorders; and

23 8. Treatment of co-occurring disorders; and

24 (iii) **[An] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, AN**  
25 **internship in alcohol and drug counseling that totals 6 semester credit hours or 10 quarter**  
26 **credit hours.**

27 **(B) IN LIEU OF SATISFYING THE INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENT IN**  
28 **SUBSECTION (A)(3)(III) OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT MAY COMPLETE**

1 **SUPERVISED WORK EXPERIENCE AS SPECIFIED IN REGULATION.**

2 **[(b)] (C)** Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass:

3 (1) An examination approved by the Board under this title; and

4 (2) The law examination on this title administered by the Board.

5 **[(c)] (D)** A certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug shall practice alcohol  
6 and drug counseling under the supervision of a Board–approved alcohol and drug  
7 supervisor who is:

8 (1) A licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor;

9 (2) A certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug;

10 (3) A certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug;

11 (4) A licensed clinical professional counselor;

12 (5) A licensed clinical marriage and family therapist;

13 (6) A licensed clinical professional art therapist; or

14 (7) A health care provider licensed under this article with documented  
15 expertise in alcohol and drug counseling.

16 **[(d)] (E)** A certified supervised counselor–alcohol and drug:

17 (1) May provide only:

18 (i) Alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an agency or  
19 facility that is certified or licensed by the State; and

20 (ii) Alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision of a  
21 Board–approved supervisor as specified in subsection **[(c)] (D)** of this section; and

22 (2) May not:

23 (i) Provide supervision; or

24 (ii) Practice independently.

25 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act is an emergency  
26 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
27 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to  
28 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
29 enacted.