

SENATE BILL 646

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11r2483
CF 11r2182

By: **Senators Carozza and Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcohol and Drug Counseling – Alcohol and Drug Trainees – Practice Through**
3 **Telehealth**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain individuals to practice clinical alcohol and drug
5 counseling without a license and alcohol and drug counseling without a certification
6 through telehealth under certain circumstances; and generally relating to alcohol
7 and drug counseling and telehealth.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Health Occupations
10 Section 1–1001(a) and (e)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Health Occupations
15 Section 17–406
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Health Occupations**

21 1–1001.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (e) (1) “Telehealth” means a mode of delivering health care services through
24 the use of telecommunications technologies by a health care practitioner to a patient at a

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 different physical location than the health care practitioner.

2 (2) “Telehealth” includes synchronous and asynchronous interactions.

3 (3) “Telehealth” does not include the provision of health care services solely
4 through audio-only calls, e-mail messages, or facsimile transmissions.

5 17-406.

6 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (2) “Approved alcohol and drug supervisor” means:

8 (i) A certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug;

9 (ii) A licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor; or

10 (iii) A health care provider licensed or certified under this article with
11 documented expertise in alcohol and drug counseling, as approved by the Board.

12 (3) “Under the supervision of an approved alcohol and drug supervisor”
13 means engaging in an ongoing process that includes direct, on-site, face-to-face, individual
14 or group meetings with an approved alcohol and drug supervisor focused on quality of
15 delivery of alcohol and drug counseling services and improvement of counseling skills for a
16 minimum of 1 documented hour for each 40-hour workweek but not less than 2 documented
17 hours per month for less than a 40-hour workweek.

18 (b) (1) An individual may practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling,
19 **INCLUDING THROUGH TELEHEALTH**, without a license for a limited period of time, as
20 determined by the Board, if the individual is working as a trainee under the supervision of
21 an approved alcohol and drug supervisor while fulfilling the experiential or course of study
22 requirements under § 17-302 of this title or § 17-403 or § 17-404 of this subtitle.

23 (2) An individual may practice alcohol and drug counseling, **INCLUDING**
24 **THROUGH TELEHEALTH**, without certification for a limited period of time, as determined
25 by the Board, if the individual is working as a trainee under the supervision of an approved
26 alcohol and drug supervisor while fulfilling the experiential or course of study requirements
27 under § 17-302 of this title or § 17-403 or § 17-404 of this subtitle.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2021.