

HOUSE BILL 291

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3lr1158
CF SB 14

By: **Delegates Guzzone and Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors**
3 **– Licensure**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the educational requirements that individuals must meet to
5 be licensed as clinical or graduate alcohol and drug counselors; and generally
6 relating to clinical and graduate alcohol and drug counselors.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health Occupations
9 Section 17–302 and 17–309
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Health Occupations
14 Section 17–305
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health Occupations**

20 17–302.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (d) [(1)] Except as provided in § 17–305 of this subtitle, the applicant shall [at a
3 minimum]:

4 [(i)] (1) Hold a master’s or doctoral degree in a [health and human
5 services] **PROFESSIONAL** counseling field from [a regionally] **AN** accredited educational
6 institution that is approved by the Board; [or] **AND**

7 [(ii)] Hold a master’s degree from a regionally accredited educational
8 institution and have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially
9 equivalent in subject matter as may be required by the Board in regulation.]

10 (2) [The applicant shall have] **HAVE** completed any additional educational
11 requirements established by the Board in regulation.

12 (e) The applicant shall:

13 (1) Have completed not less than 2 years with a minimum of 2,000 hours
14 of supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling, which shall have been completed
15 after the award of the master’s or doctoral degree; and

16 (2) Provide documentation as required by the Board evidencing the
17 completion of the postgraduate experience required under item (1) of this subsection.

18 (f) The applicant shall provide documentation to the Board evidencing the
19 completion of any educational requirements established by the Board in regulation,
20 completed at [a regionally] **AN** accredited educational institution approved by the Board.

21 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass:

22 (1) An examination approved by the Board; and

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

24 17–305.

25 (a) The Board shall waive the requirements for licensure for an applicant to
26 practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling if the applicant:

27 (1) Holds a license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor in another state,
28 territory, or jurisdiction that is equivalent to the license the applicant is applying for under
29 this subtitle;

30 (2) Submits an application to the Board on a form that the Board requires;

1 (3) Pays to the Board an application fee set by the Board; and

2 (4) Satisfies any other educational and experience requirements
3 established by the Board.

4 (b) The Board may waive educational and experience requirements established
5 under subsection (a)(4) of this section:

6 (1) Under circumstances determined by the Board; and

7 (2) For applicants who petition the Board for waiver.

8 (c) The Board shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

9 17–309.

10 (a) The Board may adopt regulations to allow an individual to practice under
11 clinical supervision as a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed graduate
12 marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional counselor, or a licensed
13 graduate professional art therapist.

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

17 (1) Of good moral character; and

18 (2) At least 18 years old.

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

21 (1) [At a minimum, a] **A** master's or doctoral degree in a [health and
22 human services] **PROFESSIONAL** counseling field from [a regionally] **AN** accredited
23 educational institution **THAT MEETS THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF § 17–302**
24 **OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

25 [(2) A minimum of 27 semester credit hours or 41 quarter credit hours in
26 alcohol and drug counselor training, including:

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

29 1. Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

30 2. Addictions treatment delivery;

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- 1 3. Ethics that includes alcohol and drug counseling issues;
- 2 4. Abnormal psychology;
- 3 5. Group counseling; and
- 4 6. Individual counseling; and

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

- 7 1. Family counseling;
- 8 2. Theories of counseling;
- 9 3. Human development;
- 10 4. Topics in substance-related and addictive disorders; and
- 11 5. Treatment of co-occurring disorders; and

12 (3)] (2) Passed:

13 (i) A national alcohol and drug counselor examination approved by
14 the Board; and

15 (ii) The law examination on this title administered by the Board.

16 (d) An individual may practice graduate marriage and family therapy under
17 supervision for a limited period of time if the individual has:

18 (1) A master's or doctoral degree in a marriage and family field that meets
19 the educational requirements of § 17-303 of this subtitle; and

20 (2) Passed the National Marriage and Family Therapy Examination
21 approved by the Board.

22 (e) An individual may practice graduate professional counseling under
23 supervision for a limited period of time if the individual has:

24 (1) A master's or doctoral degree in a professional counseling field that
25 meets the educational requirements of § 17-304 of this subtitle; and

26 (2) Passed the National Professional Counselor Examination approved by
27 the Board.

28 (f) An individual may practice graduate professional art therapy under

1 supervision for a limited period of time if the individual has a master's or doctoral degree
2 in art therapy that meets the educational requirements of § 17-304.1 of this subtitle.

3 (g) An individual may not practice without approval by the Board.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2023.