



Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

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2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 291
COMMITTEE: HGO
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors
–Licensure

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill (HB) 291 will alter the educational requirements for individuals seeking to be licensed as clinical or graduate alcohol and drug counselors.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the Board) supports this Bill which will make the requirements for the Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) credential more consistent with requirements of the other professions regulated by the Board. It will remove specific course and experiential learning requirements from statute and add them to the Board’s regulations. Further, the profession has matured since its inception and the necessity of detailed educational statutory requirements is obsolete and more appropriately addressed in regulation.

The proposed changes will standardize the requirements for professions regulated by the Board that hold the same scope of practice. It will also help alleviate confusion in the counseling field and for applicants as to the requirements for licensure as an LCADC. At present, the requirements are less than those for the other clinical counseling professions regulated by the Board despite the fact that LCADCs hold the same scope of practice.

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists strongly urges a favorable report on HB 291.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Laura Berg, Executive Director, at 410-764-4734 or at laura.berg@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.