

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 333

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a chemical dependency counselor or counselor intern.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 504.057, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 504.057. [~~CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION FOR~~] COUNSELOR INTERNS. (a) The commission by rule shall establish eligibility requirements for registration as a counselor intern under this chapter.

(b) The commission may obtain criminal history record information relating to a counselor intern or an applicant for registration as a counselor intern [~~a person described by Section 504.002(b)(2)~~] from the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(c) [~~(b)~~] The commission may adopt rules as necessary to implement the commission's authority under this section, including rules that restrict the ability of a counselor intern [~~person described by Section 504.002(b)(2)~~] to engage in chemical dependency counseling if the person has been convicted or placed on community supervision for an offense described by Section 504.1525(a)(1) or (2).

SECTION 2. Section 504.152, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 504.152. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. To be eligible

for a license under this chapter, a person must:

- (1) be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) hold an associate degree or a more advanced degree
~~[have a high school diploma or its equivalent];~~
- (3) have completed:
 - (A) an appropriate course of study approved by the commission, which may be included in the course work completed in connection with the person's degree ~~[270 classroom hours of approved curricula]; and~~
 - (B) 4,000 hours of approved supervised experience working with chemically dependent persons~~[, and]~~
~~[(C) 300 hours of approved supervised field work practicum];~~
- (4) provide two letters of reference from chemical dependency counselors;
- (5) pass a written examination approved by the commission;
- (6) submit a case presentation to the test administrator;
- (7) pass an oral examination approved by the commission;
- (8) be determined by the commission to be worthy of the public trust and confidence;
- (9) successfully complete the chemical dependency counselor examination under Section 504.156; and
- (10) sign a written agreement to comply with the standards of ethics approved by the commission.

SECTION 3. Section 504.153(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An applicant is exempt from the requirement of Section ~~[requirements of Sections]~~ 504.152(3)(A) ~~[and (C)]~~ if the applicant holds a baccalaureate degree or a more advanced degree in:

- (1) chemical dependency counseling; or
- (2) psychology, sociology, or any other related program approved by the commission.

SECTION 4. Not later than March 1, 2004, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse shall:

(1) by rule establish the counselor intern eligibility requirements under Section 504.057, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act; and

(2) adopt the rules required by Section 504.152, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 5. (a) A person who holds a license as a chemical dependency counselor before the effective date of this Act may continue to renew that license without complying with the changes in law made by this Act.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) of this section, the changes in law made by this Act apply only to an initial application made to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for a chemical dependency counseling license issued as provided by Chapter 504, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the effective date of this Act. An application for a chemical dependency counseling license made to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse before the effective date of this Act is

1 governed by the law as it existed before that date, and that law is
2 continued in effect for that purpose.

3 (c) The changes in law made by this Act do not apply to a
4 person who has completed the requirements for intern registration
5 and submitted an application for registration as a counselor intern
6 as described by Section 504.057(a), Occupations Code, as amended by
7 this Act, with the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse before
8 the effective date of this Act.

9 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2004, except
10 that Sections 1 and 4 take effect September 1, 2003.