

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 333
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 30, 2003; February 11, 2003,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human
1-4 Services; March 3, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;
1-6 March 3, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 333 By: Zaffirini

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to a chemical dependency counselor or counselor intern.
1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-12 SECTION 1. Section 504.001, Occupations Code, is amended by
1-13 adding Subdivision (3-a) to read as follows:
1-14 (3-a) "Counselor intern" means a person registered
1-15 with the commission in accordance with Section 504.1515.
1-16 SECTION 2. The heading to Subchapter D, Chapter 504,
1-17 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:
1-18 SUBCHAPTER D. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
1-19 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 504, Occupations Code, is
1-20 amended by adding Section 504.1515 to read as follows:
1-21 Sec. 504.1515. COUNSELOR INTERNS. (a) A person seeking a
1-22 license as a chemical dependency counselor shall register with the
1-23 commission as a counselor intern by submitting, in a form
1-24 acceptable to the commission, the following:
1-25 (1) an application fee and a background investigation
1-26 fee;
1-27 (2) a completed, signed, dated, and notarized
1-28 application on a form prescribed by the commission;
1-29 (3) a recent full-face wallet-sized photograph of the
1-30 applicant;
1-31 (4) two sets of fingerprints completed in accordance
1-32 with commission instructions on cards issued by the commission;
1-33 (5) documentation verifying the applicant
1-34 successfully completed:
1-35 (A) 270 total hours of approved curricula
1-36 described by Section 504.152(3)(A); and
1-37 (B) 300 hours of approved supervised field work
1-38 practicum described by Section 504.152(3)(C); and
1-39 (6) documentation verifying the applicant received a
1-40 high school diploma or its equivalent.
1-41 (b) The commission may obtain criminal history record
1-42 information relating to a counselor intern or an applicant for
1-43 registration as a counselor intern from the Department of Public
1-44 Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
1-45 SECTION 4. Section 504.152, Occupations Code, is amended to
1-46 read as follows:
1-47 Sec. 504.152. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. To be eligible for
1-48 a license under this chapter, a person must:
1-49 (1) be at least 18 years of age;
1-50 (2) hold an associate degree or a more advanced degree
1-51 [have a high school diploma or its equivalent];
1-52 (3) have completed:
1-53 (A) 135 hours, or nine semester hours, specific
1-54 to substance abuse disorders and treatment and an additional 135
1-55 hours, or nine semester hours, specific or related to chemical
1-56 dependency counseling [270 classroom hours of approved curricula];
1-57 (B) 4,000 hours of approved supervised
1-58 experience working with chemically dependent persons; and
1-59 (C) 300 hours of approved supervised field work
1-60 practicum;
1-61 (4) provide two letters of reference from chemical
1-62 dependency counselors;
1-63 (5) pass a written examination approved by the

2-1 commission;
2-2 (6) submit a case presentation to the test
2-3 administrator;
2-4 (7) pass an oral examination approved by the
2-5 commission;
2-6 (8) be determined by the commission to be worthy of the
2-7 public trust and confidence;
2-8 (9) successfully complete the chemical dependency
2-9 counselor examination under Section 504.156; and
2-10 (10) sign a written agreement to comply with the
2-11 standards of ethics approved by the commission.

2-12 SECTION 5. Subsection (a), Section 504.153, Occupations
2-13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-14 (a) An applicant is exempt from the requirements of Sections
2-15 504.152(3)(A) and (C) if the applicant holds a baccalaureate degree
2-16 or a more advanced degree in:

2-17 (1) chemical dependency counseling; or
2-18 (2) psychology, sociology, or any other related
2-19 program approved by the commission.

2-20 SECTION 6. Section 504.057, Occupations Code, is repealed.

2-21 SECTION 7. (a) A person who holds a license as a chemical
2-22 dependency counselor before the effective date of this Act may
2-23 continue to renew that license without complying with the changes
2-24 in law made by this Act.

2-25 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) of this section,
2-26 the changes in law made by this Act apply only to an initial
2-27 application made to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
2-28 for a chemical dependency counseling license issued as provided by
2-29 Chapter 504, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, on or after
2-30 the effective date of this Act. An application for a chemical
2-31 dependency counseling license made to the Texas Commission on
2-32 Alcohol and Drug Abuse before the effective date of this Act is
2-33 governed by the law as it existed before that date, and that law is
2-34 continued in effect for that purpose.

2-35 (c) The changes in law made by this Act do not apply to a
2-36 person who has completed the requirements for intern registration
2-37 and submitted an application for registration as a counselor intern
2-38 as described by Section 504.1515, Occupations Code, as added by
2-39 this Act, with the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse before
2-40 the effective date of this Act.

2-41 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2004.

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