

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 2591
By: Perry
Public Health
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

According to interested parties, Texas currently has a shortage of licensed chemical dependency counselors, which has made it difficult for certain criminal justice related programs to find qualified individuals to fill vacant counselor positions. In an effort to allow additional qualified individuals to be eligible to serve the state's criminal justice system, H.B. 2591 seeks to exempt certain credentialed individuals from the licensure requirements imposed on chemical dependency counselors.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

H.B. 2591 amends the Occupations Code to include a person who is credentialed as a Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium and who provides chemical dependency counseling through a program or in a facility that receives funding from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice among the persons whose activity or service is exempt from provisions governing chemical dependency counselors.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2011.