

by the State, a political subdivision of the State, or an entity that provides alcohol and drug counseling services under contract with the State or a political subdivision of the State; and

~~†(iii)†(H)~~ The person has completed not less than 3 years with a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised experience in alcohol and drug abuse counseling approved by the Board ~~†~~, 2 years of which shall have been completed after the award of the bachelor's degree ~~†~~ OR A PROGRAM THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN SUBJECT MATTER AND EXTENT OF TRAINING.

(3) The Board shall waive the requirements for certification as a certified supervised counselor—alcohol and drug for any person who has filed a letter of intent with the Board by July 1, [1997] 1998 if ~~†~~:

(i) The person holds an associate's degree in health or human services counseling or has completed a program that the Board determines to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to an associate's degree in health or human services counseling; or

(ii) ~~The† HHE~~ person, AS OF JULY 1, 1997, is certified as a certified alcoholism counselor [or], certified drug counselor, OR HIGHER, by the Maryland Addiction Counselor Certification Board, ANOTHER STATE, THE CERTIFICATION COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS, OR THE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION RECIPROCITY CONSORTIUM, or is employed in the capacity of an Addiction Counselor II or III, or its equivalent, OR HIGHER, if the person is employed by the State, a political subdivision of the State, or an entity that provides alcohol and drug counseling services under contract with the State or a political subdivision of the State.

Chapter 577 of the Acts of 1996

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding whether the services are provided within the scope of practice of a certified professional [counselor—drug and alcohol therapist] COUNSELOR—ALCOHOL AND DRUG, a certified [counselor—drug and alcohol therapist] ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR—ALCOHOL AND DRUG, or a certified [associate counselor—drug and alcohol therapist] SUPERVISED COUNSELOR—ALCOHOL AND DRUG, nothing in this Act may be construed to require a nonprofit health service plan, insurer, health maintenance organization, or person acting as a third party administrator to reimburse a certified professional [counselor—drug and alcohol therapist] COUNSELOR—ALCOHOL AND DRUG, a certified [counselor—drug and alcohol therapist] SUPERVISED COUNSELOR—ALCOHOL AND DRUG, or a certified associate [counselor—drug and alcohol therapist] COUNSELOR—ALCOHOL AND DRUG.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 1997.

Approved May 8, 1997.