

This bill increases the number of members on the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to require a specified number of members to be professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and alcohol and drug counselors. The bill also repeals a requirement that the licensed professional counselor Board members be employed in specified areas. Further, this bill repeals the position of drug and alcohol counselor advisor to the Board.

House Bill 459, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 502.

Sincerely,

Governor

Senate Bill 502

AN ACT concerning

**State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Sunset Extension
and Revisions**

FOR the purpose of continuing the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (Sunset Law) by extending to a certain date the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board; requiring that an evaluation of the Board and the statutes and regulations that relate to the Board be performed on or before a certain date; increasing the number of members on the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists; requiring a certain number of members to be professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and alcohol and drug counselors; repealing a requirement that certain licensed professional counselor board members be employed in certain areas; repealing the position of drug and alcohol counselor advisor to the Board; requiring a marriage and family therapist or an alcohol and drug counselor board member to vote before certain action is taken against certain professional counselors; prohibiting certain individuals from practicing clinical alcohol and drug counseling, marriage and family therapy, or professional counseling unless they are licensed by the Board; providing for certain exemptions from licensing requirements; establishing certain qualifications for the licensure of clinical alcohol and drug counselors, clinical marriage and family therapists, and clinical professional counselors; establishing certain requirements for applications for licensure, certification, and examination of applicants; authorizing the Board to waive certain requirements for licensure or certification under certain circumstances; establishing procedures for the issuance of licenses and certificates; requiring