

HOUSE BILL 863

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By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2010

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act – Corrections**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring applicants for a license to practice clinical marriage and
4 family therapy to hold a master's or doctoral degree in a certain field from an
5 accredited educational institution that is approved by the State Board of
6 Professional Counselors and Therapists; altering the number of credit hours in
7 alcohol and drug counselor training that are required for qualification as a
8 certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug or certified association
9 counselor–alcohol and drug; and generally relating to corrections of the
10 Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 17–303(a) and 17–402(a)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2009 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Health Occupations
18 Section 17–303(d), 17–402(d), and 17–403
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2009 Replacement Volume)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Health Occupations**

24 17–303.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) To qualify for a license to practice clinical marriage and family therapy,
2 an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

3 (d) (1) Except as provided in § 17–306 of this subtitle, the applicant shall
4 hold a master’s or doctoral degree in a marriage and family field **FROM AN**
5 **ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD** or
6 have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially
7 equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as required under this section.

8 (2) In the case of an applicant holding a doctoral degree, the applicant
9 shall have completed a minimum of 90 graduate credit hours in training in marriage
10 and family therapy approved by the Board that includes instruction in the following
11 specialized areas:

- 12 (i) Analysis of family systems;
- 13 (ii) Family therapy, theory, and techniques;
- 14 (iii) Couples therapy, theory, and techniques;
- 15 (iv) Gender and ethnicity in marriage and family therapy; and
- 16 (v) Sexual issues in marriage and family therapy.

17 (3) In the case of an applicant holding only a master’s degree, the
18 applicant shall have completed a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours in training in
19 marriage and family therapy approved by the Board that includes instruction in the
20 specialized areas set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

21 17–402.

22 (a) Except as provided in § 17–405 of this subtitle, to qualify as a certified
23 professional counselor–alcohol and drug, an applicant shall meet the requirements of
24 this section.

25 (d) (1) The applicant shall hold a master’s or doctoral degree in a health
26 and human services counseling field from an accredited educational institution that is
27 approved by the Board or have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to
28 be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as required under
29 this section.

30 (2) In the case of an applicant holding a doctoral degree, the applicant
31 shall have completed a minimum of 90 graduate credit hours in counselor training
32 approved by the Board, including instruction in the following areas:

- 33 (i) Counseling theory and ethics;

- 1 (ii) Counseling techniques;
- 2 (iii) Human growth and development and maladaptive
3 behaviors;
- 4 (iv) Group dynamics, processing, and counseling;
- 5 (v) Social and cultural foundations;
- 6 (vi) Lifestyle and career development;
- 7 (vii) Appraisal of individuals;
- 8 (viii) Research and evaluation;
- 9 (ix) Participation in a supervised practicum in professional
10 counseling;
- 11 (x) Marriage and family therapy; and
- 12 (xi) Alcohol and drug counseling.

13 (3) In the case of an applicant holding only a master's degree, the
14 applicant shall have completed a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours in counselor
15 training approved by the Board including instruction in the areas set forth in
16 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

17 (4) The applicant shall have completed a minimum of ~~[26]~~ **27** credit
18 hours in alcohol and drug counselor training, including instruction in:

- 19 (i) Medical aspects of chemical dependency;
- 20 (ii) Group counseling;
- 21 (iii) Individual counseling;
- 22 (iv) Family counseling;
- 23 (v) Assessment and treatment planning;
- 24 (vi) Ethics for alcohol and drug counselors;
- 25 (vii) Human development;
- 26 (viii) Abnormal psychology; and

1 (ix) Courses pertaining to counselor core functions of screening,
2 intake, orientation, case management, crisis intervention, education and prevention,
3 referral, consultation, reports and record keeping, and special alcohol and drug
4 dependency topics.

5 17-403.

6 (a) Except as provided in § 17-405 of this subtitle, to qualify as a certified
7 associate counselor-alcohol and drug, an applicant shall:

8 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution
9 approved by the Board in a health and human services counseling field or have
10 completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in
11 subject matter and extent of training to such a program of studies;

12 (2) Have completed not less than 3 years, with a minimum of 2,000
13 hours of clinically supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling approved by
14 the Board, 2 years of which shall have been completed after the award of the
15 bachelor's degree;

16 (3) Have a minimum of ~~[20]~~ **21** credit hours in alcohol and drug
17 counselor training, including instruction in:

18 (i) Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

19 (ii) Group counseling;

20 (iii) Individual counseling;

21 (iv) Family counseling;

22 (v) Assessment and treatment planning;

23 (vi) Ethics for alcohol and drug counselors;

24 (vii) Human development;

25 (viii) Abnormal psychology; and

26 (ix) Courses pertaining to counselor core functions of screening,
27 intake, orientation, case management, crisis intervention, education and prevention,
28 referral, consultation, reports and record keeping, and special alcohol and drug
29 dependency topics; and

30 (4) (i) Practice alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision
31 of a certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug or another health care provider
32 approved by the Board; or

1 (ii) Provide alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an
2 agency or facility that is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
3 Healthcare Organizations or that is certified under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health –
4 General Article.

5 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass an
6 examination approved by the Board under this title.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2010.