

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R6379 YDB-D

C.S.S.B. 333
By: Zaffirini
Health & Human Services
2/26/2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law sets the educational requirement to become a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) at a high school degree, or its equivalent, and there is little structure governing the registration of interns. Strengthened licensure requirements and rules governing interns will allow Texas to benefit from substance abuse counselors who are highly trained. C.S.S.B. 333 increases the educational requirements for licensure as an LCDC by requiring an associate degree and course work that pertains to substance abuse. C.S.S.B. 333 also grants the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse authority over registering interns. The new requirements only apply to new applicants.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 504.001, Occupations Code, by adding Subdivision (3-a), to define “counselor intern.”

SECTION 2. Amends the heading to Chapter 504D, Occupations Code, to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 3. Amends Chapter 504D, Occupations Code, by adding Section 504.1515, as follows:

Sec. 504.1515. COUNSELOR INTERNS. (a) Requires a person seeking a license as a chemical dependency counselor to register with the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) as a counselor intern by submitting, in a form acceptable to TCADA, certain items.

(b) Authorizes TCADA to obtain criminal history record information relating to a counselor intern or an applicant for registration as a counselor intern from the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 504.152, Occupations Code, to increase the licensing requirements from a high school diploma or its equivalent to an associate or more advanced degree and to specify the completion of a certain number of hours in certain subjects. Deletes the requirement for 270 classroom hours of approved curricula.

SECTION 5. Amends Section 504.153(a), Occupations Code, to include in the criteria for exemption from the requirement to have a commission approved courseload, a degree beyond a baccalaureate degree.

SECTION 6. Repealer: Section 504.057, Occupations Code (Criminal History Information for

Counselor Interns.)

SECTION 7. (a) Authorizes a chemical dependency counselor licensed before this Act's effective date to renew that license without complying with the changes made by this Act.

(b) Provides that the changes in this Act only apply to an initial license application, except as provided by Subsection (c) of this section. Continues the effectiveness of previously existing law for license applications made before this Act's effective date.

(c) Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 6. Effective date: September 1, 2004.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Differs from original by adding new SECTIONS 1-3 and 6.

Differs from original by redesignating SECTION 2 as SECTION 4. Requires a certain amount of hours in certain courses to be eligible for a license. Adds 300 hours of approved supervised field work practicum as a requirement.

Differs from original by redesignating SECTION 3 as SECTION 5. Adds Section 504.152(3)(C) to the requirements an applicant can be exempt from under certain conditions.

Differs from original by redesignating SECTION 5 as SECTION 7. Makes the application of this Act prospective relating to requirements for intern registration and for submitting an application for registration as a counselor intern as described by Section 504.1515, Occupations Code, rather than Chapter 504, Occupations Code.

Differs from original by redesignating SECTION 6 as SECTION 8. Deletes text relating to the effective date of previously existing SECTIONS 1 and 4.