

SENATE BILL 2387

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 24, Part 6, relative to alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 24, Part 6, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 10 of this act as appropriately numbered new sections.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this act is to recognize and increase the professionalism within the field of alcohol and drug abuse counseling by establishing an entry level position of intern and by establishing two levels of counselors, Level I and Level II. The purpose of the act is also to recognize that each of the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606 is part of alcohol and drug abuse counseling services, and each is necessary for the evaluation and treatment of the chemical use, abuse, and addiction of a person whose life has been significantly impacted by alcohol and drug use or of a person whose life has been significantly impacted by another person's alcohol and drug use or of both such persons.

SECTION 3. No person other than one holding a title authorized by this part may use any such title unless the person is licensed as provided in this part.

SECTION 4.

(a) To qualify initially as a "registered alcohol and drug abuse counselor intern", an applicant shall make proper application to the board and shall:

(1) Have a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma;

(2) Have completed twenty (20) hours of alcohol and drug abuse training, and ten (10) hours of such training shall be within the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606;

(3) Have completed six (6) hours of alcohol and drug abuse professional ethics training; and

(4) Demonstrate documentation of six (6) months of current employment in good standing at an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or recovery support program in a nonclinical role under the direct supervision of a qualified supervisor as deemed by rules of the board. If the qualified supervisor is not an employee of the treatment or recovery support program, a notarized work agreement or contract with a qualified supervisor must be provided as documentation of said supervision.

(b) To maintain the qualifications of a “registered alcohol and drug abuse counselor intern”, an intern shall biennially:

(1) Demonstrate documentation of current and ongoing employment in good standing at an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or recovery support program under the supervision of a qualified supervisor as deemed by the rules of the board. If the qualified supervisor is not an employee of the treatment or recovery support program, a notarized work agreement or contract with a qualified supervisor must be provided as documentation of said supervision;

(2) Demonstrate annual proof of completion of twelve (12) hours of continuing education; and

(3) Demonstrate annual proof of completion of three (3) hours of alcohol and drug abuse professional ethics training.

SECTION 5. A “registered alcohol and drug abuse counselor intern” may provide alcohol and drug abuse counseling services in an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or a recovery support program under the direct supervision of a qualified supervisor as defined by

rules of the board. Such services may include, but are not limited to, the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606. The board shall establish by rule the amount of hours of employment and supervision required to maintain licensure as a registered alcohol and drug abuse counselor intern.

SECTION 6.

(a) To qualify initially as a “Level I licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor”, an applicant shall make proper application to the board and shall:

(1) Have a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma;

(2) Have completed six thousand (6,000) hours of qualified and supervised work where the applicant has performed all of the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606 while providing alcohol and drug abuse counseling services;

(3) Have completed two hundred seventy (270) hours of alcohol and drug abuse counseling training with six (6) of such hours being in alcohol and drug abuse professional ethics training;

(4) Have completed a written case study;

(5) Have completed a written philosophy of treatment;

(6) Have passed a jurisprudence examination approved by the board; and

(7) Have passed the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors/National Certification Commission’s (NAADAC/NCC) National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC) I written examination.

(b) To maintain the qualifications of a “Level I alcohol and drug abuse counselor”, a counselor shall biennially:

(1) Demonstrate annual proof of completion of twelve (12) hours of continuing education; and

(2) Demonstrate annual proof of completion of three (3) hours of alcohol and drug abuse professional ethics training.

SECTION 7. A "Level I alcohol and drug abuse counselor" may provide alcohol and drug abuse counseling services in an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or a recovery support program. Such services shall include the primary functions listed in §68-24-606.

SECTION 8.

(a) To qualify initially as a "Level II licensed clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor", an applicant shall make proper application to the board and shall:

(1)

(A) Have a bachelor's degree or higher level college degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, and submit an official transcript, and have completed two (2) years of full-time experience or four thousand (4,000) hours of experience as an alcoholism and drug abuse counselor, and have completed two hundred seventy (270) hours of alcohol and drug abuse counseling education and training in the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606; or

(B) Have a master's degree or higher level college degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, and submit an official transcript, and have completed one (1) year of full time experience or two thousand (2,000) hours of experience as an alcoholism and drug abuse counselor, and have completed one hundred twenty (120) hours of alcohol and drug abuse counseling education and training in the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606; and

(2) Have completed six (6) hours of alcohol and drug abuse professional ethics training;

(3) Have passed a jurisprudence examination approved by the board;

(4) Have passed the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors/National Certification Commission's (NAADAC/NCC) National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC) II written examination; and

(5) Have passed an oral examination demonstrating competency in the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606.

(b) To maintain the qualifications of a "Level II licensed clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor", a counselor shall biennially:

(1) Demonstrate annual proof of completion of not less than twelve (12) hours of continuing education; and

(2) Demonstrate annual proof of completion of three (3) hours of alcohol and drug abuse professional ethics training.

SECTION 9.

(a) A Level II licensed clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor may provide alcohol and drug abuse counseling services in an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or a recovery support program or in private practice. Such services shall include the primary functions listed in § 68-24-606.

(b) A Level II licensed clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor may apply to the board to become a qualified supervisor after such Level II counselor has met the board's requirements for such credential.

SECTION 10. On July 1, 2012, each person presently licensed as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor is licensed as a "Level II licensed clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor". The board may not impose any additional fee or require any additional application for the issuance of a license pursuant to this section.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.