

HOUSE BILL No. 2688

By Committee on Health and Human Services

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AN ACT enacting the addictions counselor licensure act; amending K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 74-7507 and repealing the existing section; also repealing K.S.A. 65-6601 through 65-6606.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. Sections 1 through 13, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the addictions counselor licensure act.

New Sec. 2. As used in the addictions counselor licensure act:

- (a) "Addiction counseling" means the evaluation, assessment and counseling of individuals within the context of alcohol or drug usage or both, including but not limited to the requirements of subsection (c) of K.S.A. 8-1008, and amendments thereto. Addiction counseling includes the diagnosis and treatment of addiction disorders as authorized under the addictions counselor licensure act.
- (b) "Licensed addictions counselor technician" means a person who is licensed under this act and who engages in the practice of addictions counseling for compensation only under the supervision of a licensed addictions counselor II, a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, or a person licensed by the board and whose licensure allows for the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders in independent practice, except that the licensed addictions counselor technician is not authorized to engage in services that evaluate or diagnose for persons with addictions disorders.
- (c) "Licensed addictions counselor I" means a person who is licensed under this act and engages in the practice of addictions counseling for compensation except that the licensed addictions counselor I may evaluate, diagnose or plan treatment for persons with addictions disorders only under the direction of a licensed addictions counselor II, a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, or a person licensed by the board and whose licensure allows for the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders in independent practice.
- (d) "Licensed addictions counselor II" means a person who is licensed under this act and engages in the independent practice of addictions counseling for compensation including the diagnosis and treatment

of addictions disorders as specified in the edition of the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders of the American psychiatric association designated by the board by rules and regulations.

- (e) "Board" means the behavioral sciences regulatory board created by K.S.A. 74-7501, and amendments thereto.
- (f) "Client" means a person who consults or is examined, interviewed, diagnosed or treated by a licensee.
- (g) "Licensee" means any licensed addictions counselor technician, licensed addictions counselor I or licensed addictions counselor II who receives a confidential communication from a client if such communication was not intended to be disclosed to third persons.
- (h) "Ancillary personnel" means any employee of a licensee who is not included in the definition of licensee.
- New Sec. 3. On and after the effective date of this act: (a) Except as provided further, no person shall engage in the practice of addictions counseling or represent that such person is a licensed addictions counselor technician or an addictions counselor technician without having first obtained a license as an addictions counselor technician under the addictions counselor licensure act.
- (b) Except as provided further, no person shall engage in the practice of addictions counseling or represent that such person is a licensed addictions counselor I or an addictions counselor I without having first obtained a license as an addictions counselor I under the addictions counselor licensure act.
- (c) Except as provided further, no person shall engage in the practice of addictions counseling or represent that such person is a licensed addictions counselor II or an addictions counselor II without having first obtained a license as an addictions counselor II under the addictions counselor licensure act.
- (d) Counselors who currently practice through the substance abuse treatment and recovery (SATR) regulations, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-6301 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto, shall continue to practice under rules and regulations promulgated by the department of social and rehabilitation services.
 - (e) Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.
- New Sec. 4. (a) The board shall issue a license as an addictions counselor technician to an applicant who:
- (1) Has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust;
- (2) has completed 500 hours of supervised professional experience in addictions counseling acceptable to the board; and
- (3) has completed 18 academic credit hours of coursework in the core work functions of an addictions counselor as determined by the board.

- (b) The board shall issue a license as an addictions counselor I to an applicant who:
- (1) Has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust;
 - (2) has passed an examination approved by the board;
- (3) is licensed by the board or qualified to be licensed as an addictions counselor technician;
- (4) has completed 1,000 hours of supervised professional experience in addictions counseling acceptable to the board; and
- (5) on or after July 1, 2005, has (A) a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university approved by the board; (B) as part of or in addition to a baccalaureate degree, has completed 21 credit hours of addictions related course work in addition to the 18 credit hours in core work functions, pursuant to subsection (a), through identifiable study of the following content areas: Human development, counseling theory and techniques, group counseling, co-occuring disorders (mentally ill/substance abuse), prevention, research and addictions practicum; and (C) has completed 500 hours of the supervised professional experience requirements specified in paragraph (4) following completion of educational requirements.
- $\left(c\right)$ $\,$ The board shall issue a license as an addictions counselor II to an applicant who:
- (1) Has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust;
 - (2) has passed an examination approved by the board;
- (3) is licensed by the board or qualified to be licensed as an addictions counselor I;
- (4) has completed 2,000 hours of supervised professional experience in addictions counseling acceptable to the board; and
- (5) on or after July 1, 2007, has (A) a master's degree from an accredited college or university approved by the board; (B) as part of or in addition to a master's degree has completed 21 graduate credit hours of addictions related course work through identifiable study of the following content areas: Clinical evaluation in addictions, addictions counseling, addictions counseling ethics, addiction clinical supervision, addictions practicum and any two content areas from the requirements of subparagraph (b)(5)(B); and (C) has completed 1,000 hours of the supervised professional experience requirements specified in paragraph (4) following completion of educational requirements.
- (d) On or before June 30, 2005, a person who does not meet the education and training requirements to be licensed as an addictions counselor I specified in subsection (b)(5) may be licensed as an addictions counselor I by, upon application to the board, satisfying the remaining

requirements of this act and verifying that the person:

- (1) Was registered or qualified to be registered as an alcohol and other drug abuse counselor prior to the effective date of this act; or
- (2) has a minimum of two years of professional experience as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor certified by the department of social and rehabilitation services or equivalent professional experience acceptable to the board and has passed either a national examination or has been so recognized through a prior certification process acceptable to the board.
- (e) On or before June 30, 2007, a person who does not meet the education and training requirements to be licensed as an addictions counselor II specified in subsection (c)(5) may be licensed as an addictions counselor II by, upon application to the board, satisfying the remaining requirements of this act and verifying that the person:
- (1) Was registered or qualified to be registered as an alcohol and other drug abuse counselor prior to the effective date of this act; or
- (2) has a minimum of five years of professional experience as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor certified by the department of social and rehabilitation services or equivalent professional experience acceptable to the board and has passed either a national examination or has been so recognized through a prior certification process acceptable to the board.
- (f) Each applicant shall pay an application fee and examination fee established by the board under section 11, and amendments thereto.
- (g) Applications for licensure pursuant to the addictions counselor act shall be made to the board on a form and in the manner prescribed by the board. Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant:
- (1) Is licensed by the board as a licensed addictions counselor technician, licensed addictions counselor I or licensed addictions counselor II or meets all requirements for licensure as an addictions counselor technician, addictions counselor I or addictions counselor II; and
- (2) has paid the application fee fixed under section 11, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 5. The board shall issue a license to an individual who is currently registered, certified or licensed to practice addictions counseling in another jurisdiction if the board determines that the standards for registration, certification or licensure to practice addictions counseling in the other jurisdiction are at least equivalent to or exceed the requirements of the addictions counseling licensure act and rules and regulations of the board. An applicant for a license under this section shall pay an application fee established by the board under section 11, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 6. A licensee under the addictions counselor licensure act, at the beginning of a client-counselor relationship, shall inform the client of the level of such licensee's training and the title or titles and license

or licenses of such licensee. As a part of such obligation, such licensee shall disclose whether such licensee has a bachelor's degree, master's degree or a doctoral degree. If such licensee has a doctoral degree, such licensee shall disclose whether or not such doctoral degree is a doctor of medicine degree or some other doctoral degree. If such licensee does not have a medical doctor's degree, such licensee shall disclose that the licensee is not authorized to practice medicine and surgery and is not authorized to prescribe drugs. Documentation of such disclosures to a client shall be made in the client's record.

New Sec. 7. (a) An applicant who meets the requirements for licensure pursuant to this act, has paid the license fee provided for by section 11, and amendments thereto, and has otherwise complied with the provisions of this act shall be licensed by the board.

- (b) Licenses issued pursuant to this act shall expire 24 months from the date of issuance unless revoked prior to that time. A license may be renewed upon application and payment of the fee provided for by section 11, and amendments thereto. The application for renewal shall be accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has completed during the previous 24 months the continuing education required by rules and regulations of the board. As part of such continuing education, the applicant shall complete not less than three continuing education hours of professional ethics.
- (c) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked may make written application to the board requesting reinstatement of the license upon termination of the period of suspension or revocation in a manner prescribed by the board, which application shall be accompanied by the fee provided for by section 11, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 8. The board may refuse to grant licensure to, or may suspend, revoke, condition, limit, qualify or restrict the licensure of any individual who the board, after a hearing, determines:

- (a) Is incompetent to practice addictions counseling, or is found to engage in the practice of addictions counseling in a manner harmful or dangerous to a client or to the public;
- (b) is convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a crime that the board determines is of a nature to render the convicted person unfit to practice addictions counseling;
- (c) has violated a provision of the addictions counselor licensure act or one or more of the rules and regulations of the board;
- (d) has obtained or attempted to obtain a license or license renewal by bribery or fraudulent representation;
- (e) has knowingly made a false statement on a form required by the board for license or license renewal;
 - (f) has failed to obtain continuing education credits required by rules

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and regulations of the board;

- (g) has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by rules and regulations established by the board; or
- (h) has had a registration, license or certificate as an addictions counselor revoked, suspended or limited, or has had other disciplinary action taken, or an application for registration, license or certificate denied, by the proper regulatory authority of another state, territory, District of Columbia or another country, a certified copy of the record of the action of the other jurisdiction being conclusive evidence thereof.
- New Sec. 9. Nothing in the addictions counselor licensure act shall be construed:
- (a) To prevent addictions counseling practice by students or interns or individuals preparing for the practice of addictions counseling to practice under qualified supervision of a professional, recognized and approved by the board, in an educational institution or agency so long as they are designated by titles such as "student," "trainee," "intern" or other titles clearly indicating training status;
- (b) to authorize the practice of psychology, medicine and surgery, professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, masters level psychology or licensed social work;
- (c) to apply to the activities and services of a rabbi, priest, minister, clergy person or organized ministry of any religious denomination or sect, including a Christian-Science practitioner, unless such person or individual who is a part of the organized ministry as a licensed addictions counselor;
- (d) to apply to the activities and services of qualified members of other professional groups including, but not limited to, attorneys, physicians, psychologists, masters level psychologists, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, registered nurses or social workers performing services consistent with the laws of this state, their training and the code of ethics of their profession, so long as they do not represent themselves as being an addictions counselor;
- (e) to prevent qualified persons from doing work within the standards and ethics of their respective professions and callings provided they do not hold themselves out to the public by any title or description of services as being an addictions counselor; or
- (f) to apply to the volunteer activities of an individual providing alcoholism and other drug abuse recovery services as a part of an alcohol or drug abuse support organizations or groups, so long as such individuals do not represent themselves by any title or description in the manner prohibited under this act.
- New Sec. 10. (a) A client of a licensee has a privilege to prevent a licensee or ancillary personnel from testifying or otherwise disclosing that

 the client has been or is currently receiving treatment or from testifying or otherwise disclosing any confidential communications made for the purposes of consultation, examination, interview, diagnosis or treatment of the client's mental, alcoholic, drug dependency or emotional condition.

- (b) The privilege extends to individual, family or group therapy under the direction or supervision of the licensee and includes members of the client's family. The privilege may be claimed by the client, by the client's guardian or conservator or by the personal representative of a deceased client. The licensee shall claim the privilege on behalf of the client unless the client has made a written waiver of the privilege and provided the licensee with a copy of such waiver or unless one of the exceptions provided by subsection (d) is applicable.
- (c) Confidential communications shall extend to those persons present to further the interests of the client in the consultation, examination, interview, diagnosis or treatment; ancillary personnel; persons who are participating in the consultation, examination, interview, diagnosis and treatment under the direction or supervision of the licensee, including members of the client's family; and any other persons who the client reasonably believes needs the communication to assist in the client's consultation, examination, interview, diagnosis or treatment.
- (d) The privilege established by subsections (b) and (c) shall not extend to:
- (1) Any communication relevant to an issue in proceedings to involuntarily commit to treatment a client for mental illness, alcoholism or drug dependency if the licensee in the course of diagnosis or treatment has determined that the client is in need of hospitalization;
- (2) an order for examination of the mental, alcoholic, drug dependency or emotional condition of the client which is entered by a judge, with respect to the particular purpose for which the examination is ordered, except the privilege shall extend to the nondisclosure of any information which would incriminate or implicate a client of a criminal act except if such criminal act is specified in subparagraph (d)(4);
- (3) any proceeding in which the client relies upon any of the aforementioned conditions as an element of the client's claim or defense, or, after the client's death, in any proceeding in which any party relies upon any of the client's conditions as an element of a claim or defense;
- (4) any communication which forms the substance of information which the licensee or the client is required by law to report to a public official, which shall include, but not be limited to, child abuse pursuant to K.S.A. 38-1522, and amendments thereto, and adult abuse pursuant to article 14 of chapter 39 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, unless the statute requiring the report or record specifically provides that the information shall not be disclosed;

- (5) any information necessary for the emergency treatment of a client or former client if the licensee states in writing the reasons for disclosure of the communication and makes such statement a part of the treatment or medical record of the client;
- (6) information relevant to protect a person who has been threatened with substantial physical harm by a client during the course of treatment, when such person has been specifically identified by the client, the licensee believes there is substantial likelihood that the client will act on such threat in the reasonable foreseeable future and the licensee has concluded that notification should be given. The client shall be notified that such information has been communicated;
- (7) any information to the client or former client, except that the licensee may refuse to disclose portions of such records if the licensee states in writing that such disclosure will be inadvisable or injurious to the welfare of the client or former client;
- (8) any information to any state or national accreditation or certification or licensing authority, but the licensee shall require, before such disclosure is made, a pledge that the name of any client or former client shall not be disclosed to any person not otherwise authorized by law to receive such information;
- (9) any information to the Kansas advocacy protective services, inc. which concerns individuals who reside in a treatment facility and which is required by federal law and federal rules and regulations to be available pursuant to a federal grant-in-aid program;
- (10) any information relevant to the collection of a bill for professional services rendered by a licensee;
- (11) any information sought by a coroner serving under the laws of Kansas when such information is material to an investigation or proceeding conducted by the coroner in the performance of such coroner's official duties. Information obtained by a coroner under this provision shall be used for official purposes only and shall not be made public unless admitted as evidence by a court or for purposes of performing the coroner's statutory duties;
- (12) any communication and information between or among treatment facilities regarding a proposed client, client or former client of such treatment facility for purposes of promoting continuity of care between the state psychiatric hospitals and the community mental health centers; the consent of the proposed client, client or former client of such treatment facility shall not be necessary to share evaluation and treatment records between or among treatment facilities regarding a proposed client, client or former client of such treatment facility; as used in this paragraph, "proposed client" and "client" shall have the meanings respectively ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 59-2946 and amendments

thereto; or

- (13) any communication or information relevant to investigation or adjudication of an alleged violation of the act, or rules and regulations adopted thereunder, under which the licensee practices.
- (e) The licensee shall not disclose any information subject to subsection (d)(3) unless a judge has entered an order finding that the client has made such client's condition an issue of the client's claim or defense. The order shall prohibit the parties from disclosing otherwise confidential information to any other person.
- (f) Nothing in this section or in this act shall be construed to prohibit any licensee from testifying in court hearings concerning matters of adult abuse, adoption, child abuse, child neglect, or other matters pertaining to the welfare of children or from seeking collaboration or consultation with professional colleagues or administrative superiors, or both, on behalf of the client.

New Sec. 11. (a) The board shall fix by rules and regulations and shall collect the following fees:

- (1) For application for licensure, not to exceed \$150;
- (2) for original licensure, not to exceed \$175;
- (3) for examination, not to exceed \$275;
- (4) for renewal of a license, not to exceed \$175;
- (5) for reinstatement of a license, not to exceed \$175;
- (6) for replacement of a license, not to exceed \$20; and
- (7) for late charges, not to exceed \$5 for each 30 days of delay beyond the date the renewal application was to be made.
 - (b) Fees paid to the board are not refundable.
- (c) The board may require that fees paid for any examination for licensure be paid directly to the examination service by the person taking the examination. If the board is unable to contract with an examination service, the board may establish an examination fee or charge the examination fee and an additional amount that would allow for the collection of the fee that is required to be deposited in the state general fund pursuant to K.S.A. 74-7506, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 12. Proceedings under the addictions counselor licensure act shall be conducted in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act. Judicial review and civil enforcement of agency actions under the addictions counselor licensure act shall be in accordance with the act for judicial review and civil enforcement of agency actions.
- New Sec. 13. (a) Upon application, the board may issue a temporary license as an addictions counselor technician, addictions counselor I or addictions counselor II after the application has been reviewed and approved by the board and the applicant has paid the appropriate fee set by the board pursuant to section 11, and amendments thereto, for issu-

ance of new licenses.

- (b) A temporary license issued by the board shall expire at such time as final action on the application is completed or 12 months after the date of issuance of the temporary license.
- (c) No person may work under a temporary license except under the supervision of a licensed addictions counselor II, a person licensed by the behavioral sciences regulatory board authorized to diagnose and treat mental disorders in independent practice or a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, and such supervisory arrangements are approved by the board.
- (d) A person practicing addictions counseling with a temporary license shall include the word "temporary" in any reference to being a licensee of this act or to being a person engaged in the practice of addictions counseling.
- Sec. 14. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 74-7507 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-7507. The behavioral sciences regulatory board shall have the following powers, duties and functions:
- (a) Recommend to the appropriate district or county attorneys prosecution for violations of this act, the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, the professional counselors licensure act, K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, K.S.A 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, the marriage and family therapists licensure act or the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (b) compile and publish annually a list of the names and addresses of all persons who are licensed under this act, are licensed under the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, are licensed under the professional counselors licensure act, are licensed under K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, are licensed under K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, are licensed under the marriage and family therapists licensure act or are registered licensed under the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (c) prescribe the form and contents of examinations required under this act, the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, the professional counselors licensure act, K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, the marriage and family therapists licensure act or the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
 - (d) enter into contracts necessary to administer this act, the licensure

of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, the professional counselors licensure act, K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, the marriage and family therapists licensure act or the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto;

- (e) adopt an official seal;
- (f) adopt and enforce rules and regulations for professional conduct of persons licensed under the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, licensed under the professional counselors licensure act, licensed under K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, licensed under K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, licensed under the marriage and family therapists licensure act or registered licensed under the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (g) adopt and enforce rules and regulations establishing requirements for the continuing education of persons licensed under the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, licensed under the professional counselors licensure act, licensed under K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, licensed under K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, licensed under the marriage and family therapists licensure act or registered licensed under the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (h) adopt rules and regulations establishing classes of social work specialties which will be recognized for licensure under K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto;
- (i) adopt rules and regulations establishing procedures for examination of candidates for licensure under the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, for licensure under the professional counselors licensure act, for licensure under K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, for licensure under K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, for licensure under the marriage and family therapists licensure act, for registration licensure under the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13 inclusive, and amendments thereto, and for issuance of such certificates and such licenses;
- (j) adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this act, the licensure of psychologists act of the state of Kansas, the professional counselors licensure act, K.S.A. 65-6301 to 65-6318, inclusive, and amendments thereto, K.S.A. 74-5361 to 74-5372, inclusive, and amendments thereto, the marriage and family therapists licensure act

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and the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor registration act addictions counselor act, sections 1 to 13, inclusive, and amendments thereto, and to carry out the purposes thereof;

- (\dot{k}) appoint an executive director and other employees as provided in K.S.A. 74-7501 and amendments thereto; and
- (l) exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and duties as may be prescribed by law.
- Sec. 15. K.S.A. 65-6601 through 65-6606 and K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 74-7507 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 16. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.