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HOUSE BILL 2873

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Cooke, Patterson, Backlund, McMorris, Carrell, Buck, Boldt, Costa, Stevens and Chopp

Read first time 01/23/96. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to chemical dependency counselors; amending RCW  
2 18.19.020, 18.19.030, and 18.19.070; adding a new section to chapter  
3 18.19 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Due to the high incidence of alcohol and  
6 drug dependence affecting child protective services referrals and out-  
7 of-home placements and the increasing cost to human service programs  
8 from unrecognized or insufficiently treated alcohol and drug  
9 dependence, the legislature recognizes there is a need for identifying  
10 a group of professionals with a common foundation of skills and  
11 knowledge unique to assessing and treating alcoholism and other drug  
12 addiction. The legislature further recognizes that chemical dependency  
13 counseling has developed as a unique, interdisciplinary profession  
14 based on specific competencies, knowledge, and skills acquired through  
15 education, work experience, and life experience. The purpose of this  
16 act is to protect the public by referral to and utilization of  
17 individuals in the delivery of human services who have demonstrated a  
18 particular level of competency in the core functions of chemical

1 dependency counseling and have met other standards of qualification,  
2 education, training, and experience in chemical dependency counseling.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.19.020 and 1991 c 3 s 19 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
6 this section apply throughout this chapter.

7 (1) "Certified marriage and family therapist" means a person  
8 certified to practice marriage and family therapy pursuant to RCW  
9 18.19.130.

10 (2) "Certified mental health counselor" means a person certified to  
11 practice mental health counseling pursuant to RCW 18.19.120.

12 (3) "Certified social worker" means a person certified to practice  
13 social work pursuant to RCW 18.19.110.

14 (4) "Client" means an individual who receives or participates in  
15 counseling or group counseling.

16 (5) "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic techniques,  
17 including but not limited to social work, mental health counseling,  
18 marriage and family therapy, chemical dependency counseling, and  
19 hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer, assist or attempt to assist an  
20 individual or individuals in the amelioration or adjustment of mental,  
21 emotional, ~~((or))~~ behavioral, or chemical dependency problems, and  
22 includes therapeutic techniques to achieve sensitivity and awareness of  
23 self and others and the development of human potential. For the  
24 purposes of this chapter, nothing may be construed to imply that the  
25 practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily limited to counseling.

26 (6) "Counselor" means an individual, practitioner, therapist, or  
27 analyst who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a  
28 fee, including for the purposes of this chapter, hypnotherapists.

29 (7) "Department" means the department of health.

30 (8) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the  
31 secretary's designee.

32 (9) "State-certified chemical dependency counselor" means a person  
33 certified to practice chemical dependency counseling pursuant to  
34 section 6 of this act.

35 (10) "Twelve core functions of chemical dependency counseling"  
36 means assisting or attempting to assist a person to arrest chemical  
37 dependency and maintain abstinence, including, but not limited to, the

1 application of the following strategies and skills, all specific to  
2 chemical dependency:  
3     (a) Screening;  
4     (b) Intake;  
5     (c) Orientation;  
6     (d) Diagnosis and assessment;  
7     (e) Treatment planning;  
8     (f) Counseling;  
9     (g) Case management;  
10    (h) Crisis intervention;  
11    (i) Client education;  
12    (j) Referral;  
13    (k) Reports and recordkeeping; and  
14    (l) Consultation with other professionals regarding client  
15 treatment and services.

16       **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.19.030 and 1991 c 3 s 20 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18       No person may, for a fee or as a part of his or her position as an  
19 employee of a state agency, practice counseling without being  
20 registered to practice by the department under this chapter unless  
21 exempt under RCW 18.19.040. No person may represent himself or herself  
22 as a certified social worker, certified mental health counselor, ~~((or))~~  
23 certified marriage and family therapist, or state-certified chemical  
24 dependency counselor without being so certified by the department under  
25 this chapter.

26       **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.19.070 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 501 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28       (1) The Washington state mental health and chemical dependency  
29 quality assurance council is created, consisting of nine members  
30 appointed by the secretary. All appointments shall be for a term of  
31 four years. No person may serve as a member of the council for more  
32 than two consecutive full terms.

33       Voting members of the council must include one social worker  
34 certified under RCW 18.19.110, one mental health counselor certified  
35 under RCW 18.19.120, one marriage and family therapist certified under  
36 RCW 18.19.130, one state-certified chemical dependency counselor  
37 certified under section 6 of this act, one counselor registered under

1 RCW 18.19.090, one hypnotherapist registered under RCW 18.19.090, and  
2 two public members. Each member of the council must be a citizen of  
3 the United States and a resident of this state. Public members of the  
4 council may not be a member of any other health care licensing board or  
5 commission, or have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering  
6 health services regulated by the council, or have a material or  
7 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by the  
8 council.

9 The secretary may appoint the initial members of the council to  
10 staggered terms of from one to four years. Thereafter, all members  
11 shall be appointed to full four-year terms. Members of the council  
12 hold office until their successors are appointed.

13 The secretary may remove any member of the council for cause as  
14 specified by rule. In the case of a vacancy, the secretary shall  
15 appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

16 (2) The council shall meet at the times and places designated by  
17 the secretary and shall hold meetings during the year as necessary to  
18 provide advice to the secretary.

19 Each member of the council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
20 as authorized in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. In addition, members of  
21 the council shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 when  
22 engaged in the authorized business of the council. The members of the  
23 council are immune from suit in an action, civil or criminal, based on  
24 their official acts performed in good faith as members of the council.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Within sixty days of the effective date of  
26 this section, the secretary shall appoint a five-person chemical  
27 dependency counselor certification advisory committee to propose to the  
28 secretary, for his or her consideration, rules, educational  
29 requirements, tests, and procedures to carry out chemical dependency  
30 counselor certification. The committee shall be composed of:

31 (1) One chemical dependency counselor nominated by the Northwest  
32 Indian chemical dependency certification board;

33 (2) One chemical dependency counselor nominated by the chemical  
34 dependency counselor certification board of Washington state;

35 (3) One chemical dependency counselor not certified by any private  
36 chemical dependency board but meeting standards of qualification under  
37 the department of social and health services;

1 (4) One administrator of a chemical dependency treatment program  
2 approved by the department of social and health services; and

3 (5) One past consumer of chemical dependency counseling.

4 This section shall expire October 1, 2000.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.19 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall issue a state-certified chemical  
8 dependency counselor certificate to any applicant meeting the following  
9 requirements:

10 (a) Completion of a minimum of thirty-three quarter credits or  
11 twenty-two semester credits in course work pertaining to chemical  
12 dependency and skills development in the twelve core functions of  
13 chemical dependency counseling;

14 (b) Completion of an additional one hundred eighty clock hours of  
15 training, or equivalent course work from an accredited college or  
16 university, in topics relating to the twelve core functions of chemical  
17 dependency counseling, which must include relapse prevention  
18 counseling, screening and referral for mental illness, youth chemical  
19 dependency assessment and counseling, and ethics;

20 (c) Documentation of a minimum of two thousand clock hours of  
21 directly supervised counseling experience as a chemical dependency  
22 counselor in a chemical dependency treatment program approved by the  
23 department of social and health services;

24 (d) Successful completion of a recognized chemical dependency  
25 counselor examination based on the twelve core functions of chemical  
26 dependency counseling recommended by the chemical dependency counselor  
27 certification advisory committee and approved by the department; and

28 (e) Submission to the department of a completed application and all  
29 necessary documentation and fees.

30 (2) An applicant certified by the national association of  
31 alcoholism and drug abuse counselors or the international alcohol and  
32 other drug abuse certification and reciprocity consortium may be  
33 certified in this state without examination. Other applicants  
34 certified as chemical dependency counselors in another state may be  
35 certified in this state after successful completion of the examination  
36 required by the department.

1 (3) Until July 1, 1999, the department shall issue a  
2 state-certified chemical dependency counselor certificate to a person  
3 who provides:

4 (a) Verification of current qualified status as a chemical  
5 dependency counselor recognized by the department of social and health  
6 services or evidence of certification by a chemical dependency  
7 counselor certification board currently recognized by the department of  
8 social and health services; and

9 (b) Submission of a completed application and payment of necessary  
10 fees.

11 (4) State-certified chemical dependency counseling is that aspect  
12 of counseling that involves the provision of individual and group  
13 therapeutic contact to patients and others who are harmfully affected  
14 by the use of mood-altering chemicals or are chemically dependent, with  
15 a goal of total abstinence for all chemically dependent persons.  
16 Chemical dependency counseling is based on recognition that chemical  
17 dependency is a chronic disease that is biophysical as well as  
18 psychological, and its treatment involves a complex, holistic approach.

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