
SENATE BILL 5656

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Palmer, Moyer, C. Anderson, Deccio, Quigley and Roach

Read first time 01/31/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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.** The legislature recognizes that chemical
6 dependency affects a significant portion of the adults and youth of
7 Washington state and each year tens of thousands of these individuals
8 seek treatment from health care professionals. The legislature further
9 recognizes that chemical dependency counseling has developed as a
10 unique, interdisciplinary profession based on specific competencies,
11 knowledge, and skills acquired through education, work experience, and
12 life experience. Chemical dependency counselors possess a common
13 foundation of skills and knowledge unique to assessing and treating
14 alcoholism and other drug addiction. The purpose of this act is to
15 protect the public by identifying those individuals who have
16 demonstrated a particular level of competency in the core functions of
17 chemical dependency counseling and have met other standards of
18 qualification, education, training, and experience in chemical
19 dependency counseling.

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

3 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
4 this section apply throughout this chapter.

5 (1) "Certified chemical dependency counselor" means a person
6 certified to practice chemical dependency counseling pursuant to
7 section 6 of this act.

8 (2) "Certified marriage and family therapist" means a person
9 certified to practice marriage and family therapy pursuant to RCW
10 18.19.130.

11 (~~(2)~~) (3) "Certified mental health counselor" means a person
12 certified to practice mental health counseling pursuant to RCW
13 18.19.120.

14 (~~(3)~~) (4) "Certified social worker" means a person certified to
15 practice social work pursuant to RCW 18.19.110.

16 (~~(4)~~) (5) "Client" means an individual who receives or
17 participates in counseling or group counseling.

18 (~~(5)~~) (6) "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic
19 techniques, including but not limited to social work, mental health
20 counseling, marriage and family therapy, chemical dependency
21 counseling, and hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer, assist or attempt
22 to assist an individual or individuals in the amelioration or
23 adjustment of mental, emotional, (~~(or)~~) behavioral, or chemical
24 dependency problems, and includes therapeutic techniques to achieve
25 sensitivity and awareness of self and others and the development of
26 human potential. For the purposes of this chapter, nothing may be
27 construed to imply that the practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily
28 limited to counseling.

29 (~~(6)~~) (7) "Counselor" means an individual, practitioner,
30 therapist, or analyst who engages in the practice of counseling to the
31 public for a fee, including for the purposes of this chapter,
32 hypnotherapists.

33 (~~(7)~~) (8) "Department" means the department of health.

34 (~~(8)~~) (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or
35 the secretary's designee.

36 (10) "Twelve core functions of chemical dependency counseling"
37 means assisting or attempting to assist a person to arrest chemical
38 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 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 chemical dependency counselor certified under
37 section 6 of this act, one counselor registered under RCW 18.19.090,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) One past consumer of chemical dependency counseling.
2 This section shall expire October 1, 1999.

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

5 (1) The department shall issue a certified chemical dependency
6 counselor certificate to any applicant meeting the following
7 requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (3) Until July 1, 1998, the department shall issue a certified
36 chemical dependency counselor certificate to a person who provides:

37 (a) Verification of current qualified status as a chemical
38 dependency counselor recognized by the department of social and health

1 services or evidence of certification by a chemical dependency
2 counselor certification board currently recognized by the department of
3 social and health services; and

4 (b) Submission of a completed application and payment of necessary
5 fees.

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

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