
SENATE BILL NO. 182—SENATOR CEGAVSKE (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 14, 2005

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing certain alcohol and drug abuse counselors. (BDR 54-303)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to counseling; authorizing certain licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors to engage in mental health counseling under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Under existing law, a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor may diagnose
2 or classify a person as an alcoholic or drug abuser and may provide counseling to
3 such a person to reduce or eliminate the habitual use of alcohol or drugs. (NRS
4 641C.100, 641C.360) Under the scope of practice authorized by existing law, a
5 licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor may not engage in mental health
6 counseling.

7 This bill authorizes certain licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors to apply
8 for an endorsement on their licenses to engage in mental health counseling. To
9 qualify for such an endorsement, the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and
10 Gambling Counselors must determine that the licensed counselor meets or exceeds
11 the educational and professional experience requirements that are applicable to a
12 licensed marriage and family therapist or a licensed clinical social worker. This bill
13 also requires the Board to adopt regulations governing licensed counselors who
14 engage in mental health counseling, including regulations concerning continuing
15 education and training, scope of practice and ethical standards.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 641C of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor may engage in mental health counseling if:

(a) The licensed counselor applies to the Board for an endorsement on his license authorizing him to engage in mental health counseling;

(b) The licensed counselor has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in a field of social science deemed appropriate by the Board for mental health counseling;

(c) The Board determines that the licensed counselor will meet or exceed or has met or exceeded the educational and professional experience requirements that are applicable to a marriage and family therapist licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641A of NRS or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 641B of NRS; and

(d) The Board grants the licensed counselor an endorsement on his license authorizing him to engage in mental health counseling.

2. A licensed counselor who is granted an endorsement on his license authorizing him to engage in mental health counseling may use only the letters "LADC/C" to designate his professional credentials under the endorsement.

3. The Board shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including, without limitation, regulations that prescribe:

(a) The continuing education and training a licensed counselor must have to engage in mental health counseling. Such continuing education and training must be in addition to the continuing education and training a licensed counselor must have to engage in the practice of counseling alcohol and drug abusers.

(b) The scope of practice of a licensed counselor who is granted an endorsement on his license to engage in mental health counseling.

(c) The requirements for completing and filing an application for an endorsement to engage in mental health counseling and for renewing and reinstating the endorsement.

(d) The standards and procedures the Board will use in determining whether to grant, renew or reinstate an endorsement to engage in mental health counseling.



1 (e) *The fees for filing an application for an endorsement to*
2 *engage in mental health counseling and for renewing and*
3 *reinstating the endorsement.*

4 (f) *The ethical standards for a licensed counselor who engages*
5 *in mental health counseling.*

6 (g) *The grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a*
7 *licensed counselor who engages in mental health counseling.*

8 (h) *Disciplinary procedures for licensed counselors who*
9 *engage in mental health counseling, including, without limitation,*
10 *the suspension, revocation and reinstatement of an endorsement*
11 *to engage in mental health counseling.*

12 4. *Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, if a*
13 *licensed counselor is granted an endorsement on his license*
14 *authorizing him to engage in mental health counseling, the*
15 *licensed counselor may engage in such mental health counseling,*
16 *to the extent authorized by the endorsement, without obtaining any*
17 *other license or similar authorization pursuant to this title.*

18 **Sec. 2.** NRS 641C.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 641C.360 1. A license as an alcohol and drug abuse
20 counselor is valid for 2 years and may be renewed.

21 2. A licensed counselor may:

22 (a) Engage in the practice of counseling alcohol and drug
23 abusers;

24 (b) Diagnose or classify a person as an alcoholic or abuser of
25 drugs; ~~and~~

26 (c) Supervise certified interns ~~and~~; *and*

27 (d) *Engage in mental health counseling, if the Board has*
28 *granted the licensed counselor an endorsement on his license*
29 *pursuant to section 1 of this act authorizing him to engage in*
30 *mental health counseling.*



