



Senate

File No. 605

General Assembly

February Session, 2002

(Reprint of File No. 48)

Substitute Senate Bill No. 319
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 2, 2002

AN ACT CONCERNING ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2002*):

4 (b) Except as provided in subsections (s) to [(w)] (x), inclusive, of
5 this section, no person shall engage in the practice of alcohol and drug
6 counseling unless licensed as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor
7 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or certified as a certified
8 alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

9 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
10 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
11 *October 1, 2002*):

12 (c) Except as provided in subsections (s) to [(w)] (x), inclusive, of
13 this section, no person shall engage in the private practice of alcohol

14 and drug counseling unless (1) licensed as a licensed alcohol and drug
15 counselor pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, or (2) certified as a
16 certified alcohol and drug counselor pursuant to subsection (e) of this
17 section and practicing under the supervision of a licensed alcohol and
18 drug counselor.

19 Sec. 3. Subsection (v) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
21 *October 1, 2002*):

22 (v) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any alcohol
23 and drug counselor or substance abuse counselor employed by the
24 state, except that this section shall apply to alcohol and drug
25 counselors employed by the Department of Correction pursuant to
26 subsection (x) of this section, as amended by this act.

27 Sec. 4. Section 20-74s of the general statutes is amended by adding
28 subsection (x) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

29 (NEW) (x) The provisions of this section shall apply to employees of
30 the Department of Correction, other than trainees or student interns
31 covered under subsection (u) of section 20-74s, as follows: (1) Any
32 person hired by the Department of Correction on or after October 1,
33 2002, for a position as a substance abuse counselor or supervisor of
34 substance abuse counselors shall be a licensed or certified alcohol and
35 drug counselor; (2) any person employed by the Department of
36 Correction prior to October 1, 2002, as a substance abuse counselor or
37 supervisor of substance abuse counselors shall become licensed or
38 certified as an alcohol and drug counselor by October 1, 2007; and (3)
39 any person employed by the Department of Correction on or after
40 October 1, 2007, as a substance abuse counselor or supervisor of
41 substance abuse counselors shall be a licensed or certified alcohol and
42 drug counselor.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2002

Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Cost	Correction, Dept.	-	up to 15,000	up to 15,000
GF - Revenue Gain	Public Health, Dept.	-	up to 10,000	up to 10,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

DOC currently employs 103 correctional counselors. Approximately 20% are licensed by DPH or otherwise certified. If licensure/certification becomes a requirement of the counselor position, then the department would be responsible for reimbursing these individuals. Annual cost to DOC would range from \$13,000 - \$15,000. Subsequently, if at least half of the existing counselors were to seek licensure through DPH, then there would be an annual revenue gain of \$7,500 - \$10,000. Finally, there would be a workload increase to DPH related to processing applications.

House Amendment "A", which does not result in any additional fiscal impact, excludes trainees and student interns from the provisions of the bill as covered under subsection (u) of section 20-74s.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sSB 319 (as amended by House "A")*

**AN ACT CONCERNING ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS
EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires alcohol and drug counselors (substance abuse counselors) employed by the Department of Correction (DOC) to be licensed or certified, depending on when they are hired. This does not apply to trainees or student interns. The law currently exempts state-employed alcohol and drug counselors from licensure and certification.

Under the bill, anyone hired by DOC on or after October 1, 2002 as a substance abuse counselor or supervisor must be a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor. Those counselors or supervisors already employed by DOC before October 1, 2002 have five years to become licensed or certified (until October 1, 2007). Anyone employed by DOC on or after October 1, 2007 also must be licensed or certified.

*House Amendment "A" adds the student intern and trainee language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On April 3, the Senate referred the original bill (File 48) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported it favorably without changes on April 10. The Senate passed the bill on April 17. On April 23, the House referred the bill to the Labor and Public Employees Committee, which reported it favorably without changes on April 24. On April 25, the House referred the bill to the Judiciary Committee, which reported it favorably without change on April 26.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 24 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 49 Nay 2

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 13 Nay 1

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 34 Nay 0