



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 562

January Session, 2003

House Bill No. 6570

House of Representatives, April 28, 2003

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE 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 (x) of section 20-74s of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (x) The provisions of this section shall apply to employees of the
5 Department of Correction, other than trainees or student interns
6 covered under subsection (u) of this section and persons completing
7 supervised paid work experience under subsection (e) of this section,
8 as follows: (1) Any person hired by the Department of Correction on or
9 after October 1, 2002, for a position as a substance abuse counselor or
10 supervisor of substance abuse counselors shall be a licensed or
11 certified alcohol and drug counselor; (2) any person employed by the
12 Department of Correction prior to October 1, 2002, as a substance
13 abuse counselor or supervisor of substance abuse counselors shall

14 become licensed or certified as an alcohol and drug counselor by
15 October 1, 2007; and (3) any person employed by the Department of
16 Correction on or after October 1, 2007, as a substance abuse counselor
17 or supervisor of substance abuse counselors shall be a licensed or
18 certified alcohol and drug counselor.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

JUD *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Savings	12,000	12,000
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	12,000	12,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill provides that employees of the Department of Correction (DOC) who are completing supervised work experience as substance abuse counselors do not have to be certified or licensed as such. Current law requires all DOC counselors to be licensed and consequently, the department must reimburse them for the cost associated with certification.¹ Passage of the bill would result in minimal savings to DOC and a minimal loss of revenue to the Department of Public Health (DPH). Under the bill, fewer counselors, approximately 80, would have to be certified and fewer would seek certification through DPH.

¹ PA 02-75, AAC Alcohol and Drug Counselors Employed by the Department of Correction, requires that substance abuse counselors employed by the Department of Correction (DOC) be licensed. Trainees and student interns are exempt from this requirement and those already employed have five years to become licensed.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6570

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS
EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION*****SUMMARY:**

This bill exempts from the law requiring licensure of Department of Correction (DOC) alcohol and drug counselors (substance abuse counselors) employees who are counseling DOC clients to satisfy the licensing law's supervised, paid work experience requirement. Current law exempts only supervised student trainees and interns.

By law, substance abuse counselors must (1) complete an accredited master's degree program or be certified clinical supervisors and (2) be certified by the Department of Public Health (DPH). One of the criteria for DPH certification is completion of three years of supervised, paid work experience or acceptable unpaid internships. Candidates can substitute a master's degree for one year of experience.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 40 Nay 0