



# House of Representatives

**File No. 785**

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**(Reprint of File No. 562)**

House Bill No. 6570  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 29, 2003

**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  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 in order to satisfy mandated clinical  
8 supervision requirements for certification under subsection (e) of this  
9 section, as follows: (1) Any person hired by the Department of  
10 Correction on or after October 1, 2002, for a position as a substance  
11 abuse counselor or supervisor of substance abuse counselors shall be a  
12 licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor; (2) any person  
13 employed by the Department of Correction prior to October 1, 2002, as  
14 a substance abuse counselor or supervisor of substance abuse  
15 counselors shall become licensed or certified as an alcohol and drug

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

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

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
Correction, Dept.	GF - Savings	Up to \$12,000	Up to \$12,000
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	Up to \$12,000	Up to \$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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

House Amendment "A" makes a clarifying change that does not alter the fiscal impact of the original bill.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6570 (as amended by House "A")\*

**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 in order to satisfy the license and certification 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.

\*House Amendment "A" adds language specifying that the exempt employees must be performing the supervised counseling in order to satisfy certification requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**BACKGROUND*****Legislative History***

On May 6, the House referred the bill (File 562) to the Public Health Committee, which reported it favorably on May 13.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 40 Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 20 Nay 0