

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-283—SB 1065

Public Health Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSED ALCOHOL AND DRUG
COUNSELORS**

SUMMARY: This act reinstates a requirement that alcohol and drug counselor licensure applicants complete 360 hours of education approved by the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner, including at least 240 hours relating to the knowledge and skill base associated with the practice of such counseling. PA 12-197 had eliminated the requirement.

The act also specifies that the required master's degree for such licensure applicants must be in social work, marriage and family therapy, counseling, psychology, or a related field the commissioner approves that includes at least 18 graduate semester hours in counseling or counseling-related subjects. Under prior law, applicants had to have a master's degree in an unspecified field, and the 18 graduate hours in counseling or related subjects did not have to be part of the master's degree program. (PA 12-197 had removed the requirement that the 18 graduate hours be completed as part of the master's program.)

The act specifies that on and after passage, applicants for an initial license to engage in alcohol and drug counseling must meet the requirements under law and the act. But this does not apply to people licensed under the requirements of PA 12-197 (i.e., those licensed on and after June 15, 2012 (the date the governor signed PA 12-197) and before this act's passage).

By law, to become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor, an applicant must also:

1. complete 300 hours of supervised practical training in such counseling that the commissioner deems acceptable,
2. complete three years of supervised paid work or an unpaid internship that the commissioner deems acceptable that involves working directly with alcohol and drug clients (a master's degree can be substituted for one year of such experience), and
3. pass a DPH-prescribed examination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

OLR Tracking: JO:JR:TA:RO