

SENATE BILL NO. 181—SENATORS GOICOECHEA,
HARDY, PICKARD AND BUCK

MARCH 8, 2021

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN TITUS, HAFEN AND ELLISON

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to alcohol and drug counselors. (BDR 54-558)

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 alcohol and drug counselors; revising the requirements for the completion of postgraduate counseling for certain licenses for alcohol and drug counselors; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Under existing law, licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor by the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors requires the completion of: (1) a program approved by the Board that includes at least 2,000 hours of supervised, postgraduate counseling of persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders; and (2) a program approved by the Board that includes at least 2,000 hours of postgraduate counseling of persons with mental illness who also have alcohol and other substance use disorders that is supervised by an approved licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor. (NRS 641C.330) **Section 1** of this bill consolidates such requirements into the completion of a single program consisting of 3,000 hours.

Section 1: (1) reduces the minimum required hours in such a program for postgraduate counseling of persons with mental illness who also have alcohol and other substance use disorders from 2,000 hours to 1,000 hours; (2) eliminates the requirement that such postgraduate counseling be supervised by a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor approved by the Board; and (3) requires the program to include at least 1,000 hours of postgraduate counseling of persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders.

Under existing law, licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor by the Board requires 4,000 hours of supervised counseling of persons with alcohol and other



20 substance use disorders. (NRS 641C.350) **Section 2** of this bill reduces the
21 minimum requirement from 4,000 hours to 3,000 hours.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 641C.330 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 641C.330 The Board shall issue a license as a clinical alcohol
4 and drug counselor to:

5 1. A person who:

6 (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;

7 (b) Has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an
8 accredited college or university in a field of social science approved
9 by the Board that includes comprehensive course work in clinical
10 mental health, including the diagnosis of mental health disorders;

11 (c) Has completed a program approved by the Board consisting
12 of at least ~~[2,000]~~ **3,000** hours of supervised, postgraduate
13 counseling of persons with alcohol and other substance use
14 disorders ~~;~~

15 ~~—(d) Has completed a program] and persons with mental illness~~
16 ~~who also have alcohol and other substance use disorders~~ that:

17 (1) ~~[Is approved by the Board; and~~

18 ~~—(2)]~~ Consists of at least ~~[2,000]~~ **1,000** hours of postgraduate
19 counseling of persons with mental illness who also have alcohol and
20 other substance use disorders ~~[that is supervised by a licensed~~
21 ~~clinical alcohol and drug counselor who is approved by the Board;]~~ ;
22 ~~and~~

23 (2) *Consists of at least 1,000 hours of postgraduate*
24 *counseling of persons with alcohol and other substance use*
25 *disorders;*

26 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by
27 the Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;

28 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and

29 ~~[(g)]~~ (f) Submits all information required to complete an
30 application for a license.

31 2. A person who:

32 (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;

33 (b) Is:

34 (1) Licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to chapter
35 641B of NRS;

36 (2) Licensed as a marriage and family therapist *or a clinical*
37 *professional counselor* pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS; or



1 (3) A nurse who is licensed pursuant to chapter 632 of NRS
2 and has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an
3 accredited college or university;

4 (c) Has completed at least 6 months of supervised counseling of
5 persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders approved by
6 the Board;

7 (d) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the
8 Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;

9 (e) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and

10 (f) Submits all the information required to complete an
11 application for a license.

12 **Sec. 2.** NRS 641C.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 641C.350 The Board shall issue a license as an alcohol and
14 drug counselor to:

15 1. A person who:

16 (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;

17 (b) Has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an
18 accredited college or university in a field of social science approved
19 by the Board;

20 (c) Has completed ~~4,000~~ **3,000** hours of supervised counseling
21 of persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders;

22 (d) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the
23 Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;

24 (e) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and

25 (f) Submits all information required to complete an application
26 for a license.

27 2. A person who:

28 (a) Is not less than 21 years of age;

29 (b) Is:

30 (1) Licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to chapter
31 641B of NRS;

32 (2) Licensed as a clinical professional counselor pursuant to
33 chapter 641A of NRS;

34 (3) Licensed as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to
35 chapter 641A of NRS;

36 (4) A nurse who is licensed pursuant to chapter 632 of NRS
37 and has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an
38 accredited college or university; or

39 (5) Licensed as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor
40 pursuant to this chapter;

41 (c) Has completed 1,000 hours of supervised counseling of
42 persons with alcohol and other substance use disorders approved by
43 the Board;

44 (d) Passes the written and oral examinations prescribed by the
45 Board pursuant to NRS 641C.290;



- 1 (e) Pays the fees required pursuant to NRS 641C.470; and
- 2 (f) Submits all information required to complete an application
- 3 for a license.

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