

SESSION OF 2012

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 290**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public  
Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

SB 290 would amend the Addictions Counselor Licensure Act to clarify the licensure requirements for licensed addiction counselors (LACs) and licensed clinical addiction counselors (LCACs) and address reciprocal licensure for addiction counselors and clinical addiction counselors.

The bill would require that both an LAC and a LCAC be age 21, pass an examination approved by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, satisfy said Board that the individual merits the public trust, and pay the established application fee. In addition, educational requirements would be established for each.

An addiction counselor would be required to meet one of the the following educational requirements:

- Completed a baccalaureate degree in addiction counseling; or
- Completed a baccalaureate degree in a related field with a minimum number of semester hours on substance use disorders; or
- Completed a baccalaureate degree in a related field and additional coursework in addiction counseling including a minimum number of semester hours on substance use disorders; or

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Be currently licensed as a social worker and have completed a minimum number of semester hours on substance use disorders; or
- Be currently licensed as a Master social worker, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, or Masters level psychologist.

A licensed clinical addiction counselor (LCAC) would need to meet the following educational requirements:

- Completed a Master's degree in addiction counseling, and
  - Have two or more years of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 4,000 hours, or
  - Have a doctoral degree in addiction counseling or related field and two years or more of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 2,000 hours; or
- Completed a Master's degree in a related field including a minimum number of semester hours on diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorder, and
  - Have two years or more of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 4,000 hours; or
  - Have a doctoral degree in addiction counseling or related field and at least two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 2,000 hours; or
- Completed a Master's degree in a related field with additional coursework in addiction counseling with a minimum number of semester hours on diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders; and

- Have at least two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 4,000 hours; and
- Have a doctoral degree in addiction counseling or related field and at least two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 2,000 hours; or
- Completed a Master's degree in a related field and be licensed as an addiction counselor, and
  - Have at least two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 4,000 hours, or
  - Have completed two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience of not less than 2,000 hours and have a doctoral degree; or
- Be currently licensed in Kansas as a psychologist, special clinical social worker, clinical professional counselor, clinical psychotherapist or clinical marriage and family therapist, and provide attestation from a professional.

Addiction counselors and clinical addiction counselors currently registered, certified or licensed in another jurisdiction would be allowed to be licensed in Kansas if the standards to practice in that jurisdiction were substantially equivalent to Kansas; or they demonstrated compliance, had five years of continuous practice, no disciplinary actions, paid the fee, and met the requisite educational requirements. The educational requirements for an addiction counselor would be the completion of a baccalaureate degree or a Master's in addiction counseling or related field. The educational requirement for a clinical addiction counselor would be:

- Completing a Master's in clinical addiction counseling or a Master's in a related field including a minimum number of semester hours on diagnosis

and treatment of substance use disorders, or a Master's in a related field with additional coursework in addiction counseling with a minimum number of semester hours on diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders; and

- Have at least two of the following:
  - Coursework or passing a national exam; or
  - Three years of clinical practice; or
  - Attestation from a professional.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced at the request of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB). The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee heard testimony in favor of the bill from the Executive Director of the BSRB and representatives of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals, the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the Mental Health Credentialing Coalition, and a licensed clinical addiction counselor and member of the BSRB Addiction Counselor Advisory Committee. Written testimony in favor of the bill was provided by the Kansas Psychological Association, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, and the Responsive Centers for Psychology and Learning. The Executive Director of the BSRB testified regarding the concerns expressed in the process of adopting the rules and regulations for the Addiction Counselor Licensure which was passed by the Legislature in 2011 HB 2182 and the charge to the BSRB to find a compromise regarding the problems presented to the Joint Rules and Regulations Committee during the summer and fall of 2011. The Executive Director stated a "compromise committee" was organized comprised of representatives from the addictions counselors, social workers, psychologists, counselors and marriage and family therapists, regents institutions, and the BSRB Director and

Assistant Director and that the compromise reached was acceptable to all parties. The BSRB approved the compromise with one exception, which the Board decided not to include in the bill. Proponents testified that the bill represents the compromise between the respective stakeholders. No opposing or neutral testimony was presented to the Committee.

The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee made technical amendments to the bill.

The fiscal note states the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board indicated that any fiscal effect associated with the passage of the bill would be negligible.