

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 615  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H615-PCS30391-BC-18

Short Title: Amend Substance Abuse Professional Pract. Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 10, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AMENDING THE NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ACT BY REPEALING THE CERTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL; CLARIFYING WHAT CONSTITUTES INDEPENDENT STUDY; MODIFYING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF BOARD-APPROVED EDUCATION HOURS REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION AS A SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR, SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION CONSULTANT, OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADDICTIONS PROFESSIONAL; AND ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR IMPAIRED SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONALS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART I. REPEAL OF CERTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL**

**SECTION 1.(a)** The certified substance abuse residential facility director credential is repealed. The North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board shall no longer issue or renew a certified substance abuse residential facility director credential to any person.

**SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 90-113.31A(8) and G.S. 90-113.31B(5) are repealed.

**SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 90-113.42(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Only individuals registered, certified, or licensed under this Article may use the title "Certified Substance Abuse Counselor", "Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant", "Certified Clinical Supervisor", "Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist Associate", "~~Certified Substance Abuse Residential Facility Director~~", "Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional", "Substance Abuse Counselor Intern", "Provisional Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist", "Clinical Supervisor Intern", or "Registrant"."

**SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 90-113.43(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Except as otherwise authorized in this Article, no person shall:

- (1) Offer substance abuse professional services, practice, attempt to practice, or supervise while holding himself or herself out to be a certified substance abuse counselor, certified substance abuse prevention consultant, certified clinical supervisor, licensed clinical addictions specialist, licensed clinical addictions specialist associate, ~~certified substance abuse residential facility director~~, certified criminal justice addictions professional, clinical supervisor intern, substance abuse counselor intern, or registrant without first having



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1 obtained a notification of registration, certification, or licensure from the  
2 Board.

3 (2) Use in connection with any name any letters, words, numerical codes, or  
4 insignia indicating or implying that this person is a registrant, certified  
5 substance abuse counselor, certified substance abuse prevention consultant,  
6 certified clinical supervisor, licensed clinical addictions specialist, ~~certified~~  
7 ~~substance abuse residential facility director~~, substance abuse counselor  
8 intern, certified criminal justice addictions professional, or licensed clinical  
9 addictions specialist associate, unless this person is registered, certified, or  
10 licensed pursuant to this Article.

11 (3) Practice or attempt to practice as a certified substance abuse counselor,  
12 certified substance abuse prevention consultant, certified clinical supervisor,  
13 licensed clinical addictions specialist, certified criminal justice addictions  
14 professional, substance abuse counselor intern, licensed clinical addictions  
15 specialist associate, clinical supervisor intern, ~~certified substance abuse~~  
16 ~~residential facility director~~ or registrant with a revoked, lapsed, or suspended  
17 certification or license.

18 (4) Aid, abet, or assist any person to practice as a certified substance abuse  
19 counselor, certified substance abuse prevention consultant, certified criminal  
20 justice addictions professional, certified clinical supervisor, licensed clinical  
21 addictions specialist, ~~certified substance abuse residential facility director~~,  
22 registrant, substance abuse counselor intern, licensed clinical addictions  
23 specialist associate, or clinical supervisor intern in violation of this Article.

24 (5) Knowingly serve in a position required by State law or rule or federal law or  
25 regulation to be filled by a registrant, certified substance abuse counselor,  
26 certified substance abuse prevention consultant, certified criminal justice  
27 addictions professional, certified clinical supervisor, licensed clinical  
28 addictions specialist, ~~certified substance abuse residential facility director~~,  
29 substance abuse counselor intern, licensed clinical addictions specialist  
30 associate, or clinical supervisor intern unless that person is registered,  
31 certified, or licensed under this Article.

32 (6) Repealed by S.L. 1997-492, s. 13.

33 (7) Repealed by Session Laws 2008-130, s. 6, effective July 28, 2008."

34 **SECTION 1.(e)** Subsection (a) of this section is effective when this act becomes  
35 law. The remaining subsections of this section become effective upon the expiration of the last  
36 certified substance abuse residential facility director credential issued prior to the effective date  
37 of this act by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board. The North  
38 Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board shall notify the Revisor of Statutes  
39 when the last credential issued by the Board has expired.

## 41 **PART II. CLARIFICATION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES INDEPENDENT STUDY**

42 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90-113.31A reads as rewritten:

### 43 **"§ 90-113.31A. Definitions.**

44 The following definitions shall apply in this Article:

45 ...  
46 (18) Independent study. – ~~Any course of~~ Directed study undertaken by an  
47 individual with little or no supervision that is does not include traditional  
48 classroom-based study that must be preapproved by the Board or any  
49 organization that has deemed status with the ~~Board~~ Board, or any online  
50 course of study that does not include a network-enabled transfer of skills and  
51 knowledge from teacher to student being performed at the same time.

1 ...  
2 (27) Traditional classroom-based study. – An educational method of learning  
3 involving face-to-face communication or other shared communication being  
4 performed in either a shared physical setting or by audio conferencing  
5 methods, video conferencing methods, or both."  
6

7 **PART III. MODIFICATION OF NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE**  
8 **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

9 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 90-113.32(c) reads as rewritten:

10 "(c) After the initial Board members' terms expire, the Board shall consist of the  
11 following members, all of whom shall reside in North Carolina, appointed or elected as  
12 follows:

- 13 (1) Eleven professionals credentialed pursuant to this Article and elected by the  
14 credentialed professionals, at least two of whom shall serve each of the four  
15 Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance  
16 Abuse Services regions of the State. Three members shall serve as members  
17 at large.
- 18 ~~(2) Three members at large chosen from laypersons or other professional~~  
19 ~~disciplines who have shown a special interest in the field of substance abuse,~~  
20 ~~nominated by the Nominating and Elections Committee established by~~  
21 ~~subsection (d) of this section and elected by the Board.~~
- 22 (3) Two members from the Department of Health and Human Services,  
23 appointed by the Chief of Community Policy Management of the Division of  
24 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services,  
25 at least one of whom administers substance abuse services.
- 26 (4) ~~One member~~Two members of the public at large with personal interest in, or  
27 experience with, substance use disorder recovery modalities, substance use  
28 disorder prevention modalities, or both, appointed by the  
29 ~~Governor.~~Governor.
- 30 (5) ~~One member of the public at large~~Two professionals credentialed pursuant  
31 to this Article and appointed by the General Assembly upon the  
32 recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in  
33 accordance with G.S. 120-121 and ~~one member of the public at large~~two  
34 professionals credentialed pursuant to this Article and appointed by the  
35 General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore  
36 of the Senate in accordance with G.S. 120-121.
- 37 (6) One member shall represent each of the professional disciplines granted  
38 deemed status under G.S. 90-113.41A. The member may be appointed by  
39 the professional discipline on or before a date set by the Board. If the  
40 professional discipline has at least one association in the State, the member  
41 shall be chosen from a list of nominees submitted to the association. The  
42 members appointed or elected under this subdivision shall be certified as  
43 substance abuse specialists by the professional discipline that the members  
44 represent.

45 No member of the General Assembly shall serve on the Board."

46 **SECTION 3.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 90-113.32(e), the terms of current members  
47 appointed to the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board pursuant to  
48 G.S. 90-113.32(c)(2) expire on December 31, 2017. The terms of members appointed to the  
49 North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board pursuant to G.S. 90-113.32(c)(4)  
50 and G.S. 90-113.32(c)(5), as amended by this act, commence on January 1, 2018.

1 **PART IV. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF BOARD-APPROVED EDUCATION HOURS**  
2 **REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION AS A SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR,**  
3 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION CONSULTANT, OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
4 **ADDICTIONS PROFESSIONAL**

5 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 90-113.40(a)(6) reads as rewritten:

6 "(6) The applicant has completed ~~270~~300 hours of Board-approved education.  
7 The Board may prescribe that a certain number of hours be in a course of  
8 study for substance abuse counseling and that a certain number of hours be  
9 in a course of study for substance abuse prevention consulting. Independent  
10 study hours shall not compose more than fifty percent (50%) of the total  
11 number of hours required for initial credentialing."

12 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 90-113.40(d1)(1) reads as rewritten:

13 "(1) Has attained ~~270~~300 hours of Board-approved education or training, unless  
14 the applicant has attained a minimum of a masters degree with a clinical  
15 application and a substance abuse specialty from a regionally accredited  
16 college or university whereby the applicant must only obtain 180 hours. The  
17 hours of education shall be specifically related to the knowledge and skills  
18 necessary to perform the tasks within the International Certification and  
19 Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Incorporated,  
20 "IC&RC/AODA, Inc.," criminal justice addictions professional performance  
21 domains as they relate to both adults and juveniles. Independent study may  
22 compose up to fifty percent (50%) of the total number of hours obtained for  
23 initial certification or renewal."  
24

25 **PART V. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM FOR IMPAIRED SUBSTANCE ABUSE**  
26 **PROFESSIONALS**

27 **SECTION 6.** Article 5C of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by  
28 adding a new section to read:

29 **"§ 90-113.48. Program for impaired substance abuse professionals.**

30 (a) There is created the North Carolina Impaired Professionals Program. The Board  
31 may provide funds for the administration of the Program, but the Program shall operate  
32 independently of the Board. The purpose of the Program is to provide screening, referral,  
33 monitoring, educational, and support services for professionals credentialed pursuant to this  
34 Article by reason of an impairment attributed to a physical or mental illness, a substance use  
35 disorder, or professional sexual misconduct.

36 (b) The Program may enter into an agreement with one or more professionals  
37 credentialed pursuant to this Article for the purposes of identifying, reviewing, and evaluating  
38 the ability of substance abuse professionals who are referred or self-referred to the Program to  
39 (i) function in their professional capacity and (ii) coordinate regimens for treatment and  
40 rehabilitation.

41 (c) An agreement entered into between the Program and a credentialed professional  
42 pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall include guidelines for all of the following:

43 (1) Enrollment of credentialed professionals referred to the Program by the  
44 Board.

45 (2) Assessment, referral, monitoring, support, and education of credentialed  
46 professionals referred to the Program by reason of a physical or mental  
47 illness, a substance use disorder, or professional sexual misconduct.

48 (3) Consistent with subsection (d) of this section, criteria for the Program to  
49 report credentialed professionals to the Board.

- 1           (4)   Procedures by which credentialed professionals may obtain review of  
2           Program recommendations about the credentialed professional regarding  
3           assessment or treatment.
- 4           (5)   Periodic reporting of statistical information by the Program to the Board.
- 5           (6)   Maintaining the confidentiality of nonpublic information.
- 6       (d)   The Program shall report immediately to the Board detailed information about any  
7       professional credentialed pursuant to this Article who meets any of the following criteria:
- 8           (1)   Constitutes an imminent danger to patient care by reason of mental illness,  
9           physical illness, substance use disorder, professional sexual misconduct, or  
10          any other reason.
- 11          (2)   Refuses to submit to an assessment as ordered by the Program.
- 12          (3)   Has entered into a monitoring contract as a Program participant and fails to  
13          comply with the terms of the monitoring contract.
- 14          (4)   Is still unsafe to practice as a substance abuse professional after completing  
15          Program services.
- 16       (e)   Any information acquired, created, or used in good faith by the Program pursuant to  
17       this section is privileged, confidential, and not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means  
18       of legal compulsion for release to any person other than to the Board, the Program, or their  
19       employees or consultants. No person participating in good faith in the Program shall be  
20       required in a civil action or proceeding to disclose the fact of participation in the Program or  
21       any information acquired or opinions, recommendations, or evaluations acquired or developed  
22       solely in the course of participating in the Program pursuant to this section. For purposes of this  
23       subsection, "civil action or proceeding" does not include an administrative action or proceeding  
24       conducted under this Article or under Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.
- 25       (f)   Activities conducted in good faith pursuant to the agreement authorized by  
26       subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall not be grounds for civil action under the laws of this  
27       State.
- 28       (g)   Upon the written request of a professional credentialed pursuant to this Article, the  
29       Program shall provide the credentialed professional and his or her legal counsel with a copy of  
30       a written assessment of the credentialed professional prepared as part of his or her participation  
31       in the Program. In addition, to the extent permitted by State and federal laws, the credentialed  
32       professional shall be entitled to a copy of any written assessment created by a treatment  
33       provider or facility at the recommendation of the Program. Any information the Program  
34       furnishes to a credentialed professional pursuant to this subsection shall be inadmissible in  
35       evidence and shall not be subject to discovery in any civil action or proceeding; provided,  
36       however, that this subsection shall not be construed to make information, documents, or records  
37       otherwise available for discovery or use in a civil action or proceeding immune from discovery  
38       or use in the civil action or proceeding merely because the information, documents, or records  
39       were included as part of the Program's assessment of the credentialed professional or were the  
40       subject of information furnished to the credentialed professional pursuant to this subsection.  
41       For purposes of this subsection, "civil action or proceeding" does not include an administrative  
42       action or proceeding conducted under this Article or Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.
- 43       (h)   The Board shall adopt rules to apply to the operation of the Program, with  
44       provisions for at least all of the following:
- 45           (1)   Definitions of impairments attributed to physical or mental illness, substance  
46           use disorder, and professional sexual misconduct.
- 47           (2)   Guidelines for Program elements.
- 48           (3)   Procedures for receipt and use of information of suspected impairment.
- 49           (4)   Procedures for intervention and referral.
- 50           (5)   Arrangements for monitoring treatment, rehabilitation, posttreatment  
51           support, and performance.

- 1           (6)    Reports of individual cases to the Board.
- 2           (7)    Periodic reporting of statistical information.
- 3           (8)    Assurance of confidentiality of nonpublic information."
- 4

5 **PART VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

6           **SECTION 7.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective October 1,  
7 2017.