

Alaska State Legislature

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Alaska State Capitol,
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Senate Bill 116

"An Act relating to the Board of Professional Counselors; and relating to licensing of associate counselors."

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Section 1. (Page 1) Amends AS 08.02.110 **Professional designation requirements**

(a) to include Associate Counselors in the same chapter as other professions and requires them to use appropriate professional title designation that represents their field of practice

Section 2. (Page 2) Amends AS 08.29.020 **Duties of the Board**

(a) to include Associate Counselors to be licensed by the Board of Professional Counselors.

Section 3. (Page 2) Amends AS 08.29.100 **Unlicensed use of title prohibited**

(a) to prohibit those without licenses to declare themselves an Associate Counselors, use language that may be confused with the title of "Associate Counselor."

Section 4. (Page 3) Amends AS 08.29.110 **Qualifications for Licensure**

(a) to establish that the board shall issue a professional counselor license if the applicant has successfully completed an associate counselor program authorized by the board and meets all other requirements of the board, including the supervision of a supervisor approved under regulations of the board. Furthermore, at least 100 hours of face-to-face supervision are required.

Section 5. (Page 4) Amends AS 08.29.120 **Licensure by credentials**

(a) to establish that the board may issue a license for professional or associate counselor to practice if they are licensed in another jurisdiction and if the board finds the other jurisdiction has an equal or higher licensure requirement as those in this state.

Section 6. (Page 4) Amends AS 08.29.220 **Disclosure Statement**

Requires an Associate Counselor to furnish a disclosure statement including the name, title, business address and business telephone number to clients before providing services. The disclosure statement must include the Associate Counselor's educational description, areas of specialization, services available, and fee schedule listed by type of service or hourly rate. It also must include that the information provided is required by the Board of Professional Counselors which regulates their activities.

Section 7. (Page 5) Amends 08.29.400 Grounds for denial of license or for disciplinary sanctions

(a) to include that Associate Counselors may be subject to disciplinary sanctions imposed by the Board of Professional Counselors if they are incompetent, or have committed misconduct, fraud, misrepresentation, or dishonesty in the functions of a licensed Associate Counselor.

A licensed Associate Counselor is also subject to disciplinary sanctions if they assist another person who is not licensed under this chapter in an attempt to represent the person to the public as a licensed Associate Counselor.

Section 8. (Page 6) Repeals 08.29.210

Supervisor certification

Section 9. (Page 6) Creates transitional language to allow the board to promulgate and adopt regulations.

Section 10. (Page 6) Allows Section 9 to be conducted immediately.

Section 11. (Page 6) Provides for overall effective date of the bill to be July 1, 2025.