

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 17, 2025

SENATE BILL NO. 880

By: Grellner

An Act relating to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1873, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 1873), which relates to the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors; eliminating certain educational requirement; removing obsolete language; updating statutory language; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1873, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 1873), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1873. A. There is hereby re-created, to continue until July 1, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, consisting of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, as follows: provided by subsection B of this section.

B. 1. a. Six members who shall be alcohol and drug counselors certified by an entity recognized to do professional alcohol and drug counseling certification

1 ~~in this state; provided, however, five of such members~~
2 ~~shall subsequently secure licensure and one such~~
3 ~~member shall subsequently secure certification,~~
4 ~~pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and~~
5 ~~Drug Counselors Act, no later than January 1, 2005.~~

6 b. ~~Thereafter, five~~ Five members shall be licensed
7 alcohol and drug counselors ~~at the time of~~
8 appointment, and one member shall be certified as an
9 alcohol and drug counselor ~~at the time of appointment.~~

10 c. ~~Pursuant to.~~ Each such member shall be licensed or
11 certified in good standing and shall have at least
12 three (3) years of experience in the practice of
13 alcohol and drug counseling in this state. Of the
14 members appointed under the provisions of this
15 paragraph, the Governor shall appoint:

16 (1) a. four members from a list of names submitted by the
17 Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Professional Counselors
18 Counselor Association,

19 (2) b. one member from a list of names submitted by the
20 Oklahoma Substance Abuse Services Alliance Oklahoma
21 Behavioral Health Association, and

22 (3) c. one member from a list of names submitted by the
23 Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and Treatment
24 Transformation Association.

1 d.

2 2. One member shall be appointed from and shall represent the
3 general public. Such member shall be a resident of this state who
4 has attained the age of majority and shall not be, nor shall ever
5 have been, a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, or
6 the spouse of a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, or
7 a person who has ever had any material financial interest in the
8 provision of alcohol and drug counseling services or has engaged in
9 any activity directly related to the practice of alcohol and drug
10 counseling.

11 2. ~~The composition of the Board shall include five members who~~
12 ~~hold a master's or higher degree and one member whose highest degree~~
13 ~~held is a bachelor's degree.~~

14 3. ~~The Governor shall appoint the members to the Board no later~~
15 ~~than July 1, 2004.~~

16 B. ~~Each member of the Board appointed as a licensed alcohol and~~
17 ~~drug counselor shall:~~

18 1. ~~Be certified or licensed to engage in the practice of~~
19 ~~alcohol and drug counseling in this state and shall be in good~~
20 ~~standing; and~~

21 2. ~~Have at least three (3) years of experience in the practice~~
22 ~~of alcohol and drug counseling in this state.~~

23 C. ~~Two of the members initially appointed shall serve three-~~
24 ~~year terms; two shall serve four-year terms and three shall serve~~

1 ~~five-year terms, as designated by the Governor. Thereafter, the~~ The
2 terms of all members shall be five (5) years.

3 D. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled in the same manner as
4 the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

5 Members may succeed themselves but shall serve no more than two
6 consecutive terms. Each member shall serve until a successor is
7 appointed and qualified.

8 E. Members of the Board may be removed from office for one or
9 more of the following reasons:

10 1. The refusal or inability for any reason to perform the
11 duties of a Board member in an efficient, responsible and
12 professional manner;

13 2. The misuse of office for pecuniary or material gain or for
14 personal advantage for self or another;

15 3. A violation of the laws or rules governing the practice of
16 alcohol and drug counseling; or

17 4. Conviction of a felony as verified by a certified copy of
18 the record of the court of conviction.

19 F. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but
20 shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel expenses as
21 provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

22 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
February 17, 2025 - DO PASS

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