

HOUSE BILL No. 2506

By Committee on Health and Human Services

Requested by Travis Lowe on behalf of Acadia Healthcare

1-21

AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to the behavioral sciences; relating to the licensure and regulation of addiction counselors; establishing an addiction counselor apprentice license and setting fees for such license; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-6610 and 65-6618 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-6610 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-6610. (a) An applicant for licensure as an addiction counselor shall furnish evidence that the applicant:

(1) Has attained 21 years of age;

(2) (A) has completed at least a baccalaureate degree from an addiction counseling program that is part of a college or university approved by the board;

(B) has completed at least a baccalaureate degree from a college or university approved by the board. As part of, or in addition to, the baccalaureate degree coursework, such applicant shall also complete a minimum number of semester hours of coursework on substance use disorders as approved by the board;

(C) is currently licensed in Kansas as a licensed baccalaureate social worker and has completed a minimum number of semester hours of coursework on substance use disorders as approved by the board; or

(D) is currently licensed in Kansas by the board as a master social worker, specialist clinical social worker, professional counselor, clinical professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, clinical marriage and family therapist, master's level psychologist, clinical psychotherapist or psychologist. Such licensees shall be eligible to take the examination as required by paragraph (3);

(3) has passed an examination approved by the board;

(4) has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust; and

(5) has paid the application fee established by the board under K.S.A. 65-6618, and amendments thereto, and, upon notification from the board that all eligibility requirements have been satisfied, paid the license fee established under K.S.A. 65-6618, and amendments thereto.

1 (b) Applications for licensure as a master's addiction counselor shall
2 be made to the board on a form and in the manner prescribed by the board.
3 Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the
4 applicant:

5 (1) (A) Has attained 21 years of age;

6 (B) (i) has completed at least a master's degree from an addiction
7 counseling program that is part of a college or university approved by the
8 board;

9 (ii) has completed at least a master's degree from a college or
10 university approved by the board. As part of or in addition to the master's
11 degree coursework, such applicant shall also complete a minimum number
12 of semester hours of coursework supporting the diagnosis and treatment of
13 substance use disorders as approved by the board; or

14 (iii) is currently licensed in Kansas as a licensed master social
15 worker, licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family
16 therapist or licensed master's level psychologist;

17 (C) has passed an examination approved by the board;

18 (D) has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits
19 the public trust; and

20 (E) has paid the application fee set under K.S.A. 65-6618, and
21 amendments thereto, and, upon notification from the board that all
22 eligibility requirements have been satisfied, paid the license fee as
23 provided by K.S.A. 65-6618, and amendments thereto; or

24 (2) (A) has met the following requirements on or before July 1, 2016:

25 (i) Holds an active license by the board as an addiction counselor; and

26 (ii) has completed at least a master's degree in a related field from a
27 college or university approved by the board; and

28 (B) has completed six hours of continuing education in the diagnosis
29 and treatment of substance use disorders during the three years
30 immediately preceding the application date.

31 (c) Applications for licensure as a clinical addiction counselor shall
32 be made to the board on a form and in the manner prescribed by the board.
33 Each applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the
34 applicant:

35 (1) Has attained 21 years of age;

36 (2) (A) (i) has completed at least a master's degree from an addiction
37 counseling program that is part of a college or university approved by the
38 board; and

39 (ii) has completed not less than two years of postgraduate supervised
40 professional experience in accordance with a clinical supervision plan
41 approved by the board of not less than 3,000 hours of supervised
42 professional experience, including at least 1,500 hours of direct client
43 contact conducting substance abuse assessments and treatment with

1 individuals, couples, families or groups and not less than 100 hours of
2 face-to-face clinical supervision, as defined by the board in rules and
3 regulations, including not less than 50 hours of individual supervision,
4 except that the board may waive the requirement that such supervision be
5 face-to-face upon a finding of extenuating circumstances, integrating
6 diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders with use of the
7 diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders of the American
8 psychiatric association, except that the board may waive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hours
9 required by this clause for an individual who has a doctoral degree in
10 addiction counseling or a related field approved by the board and who
11 completes the required $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hours in not less than one year of
12 supervised professional experience; or

13 (B) (i) has completed at least a master's degree from a college or
14 university approved by the board. As part of or in addition to the master's
15 degree coursework, such applicant shall also complete a minimum number
16 of semester hours of coursework supporting the diagnosis and treatment of
17 substance use disorders as approved by the board; and

18 (ii) has completed not less than two years of postgraduate supervised
19 professional experience in accordance with a clinical supervision plan
20 approved by the board of not less than 3,000 hours of supervised
21 professional experience, including at least 1,500 hours of direct client
22 contact conducting substance abuse assessments and treatment with
23 individuals, couples, families or groups and not less than 100 hours of
24 face-to-face clinical supervision, as defined by the board in rules and
25 regulations, including not less than 50 hours of individual supervision,
26 except that the board may waive the requirement that such supervision be
27 face-to-face upon a finding of extenuating circumstances, integrating
28 diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders with use of the
29 diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders of the American
30 psychiatric association, except that the board may waive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hours
31 required by this clause for an individual who has a doctoral degree in
32 addiction counseling or a related field approved by the board and who
33 completes the required $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hours in not less than one year of
34 supervised professional experience; or

35 (C) (i) has completed a master's degree from a college or university
36 approved by the board and is licensed by the board as a licensed master's
37 addiction counselor; and

38 (ii) has completed not less than two years of postgraduate supervised
39 professional experience in accordance with a clinical supervision plan
40 approved by the board of not less than 3,000 hours of supervised
41 professional experience, including at least 1,500 hours of direct client
42 contact conducting substance abuse assessments and treatment with
43 individuals, couples, families or groups and not less than 100 hours of

1 face-to-face clinical supervision, as defined by the board in rules and
2 regulations, including not less than 50 hours of individual supervision,
3 except that the board may waive the requirement that such supervision be
4 face-to-face upon a finding of extenuating circumstances, integrating
5 diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders with use of the
6 diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders of the American
7 psychiatric association, except that the board may waive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hours
8 required by this clause for an individual who has a doctoral degree in
9 addiction counseling or a related field approved by the board and who
10 completes the required $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hours in not less than one year of
11 supervised professional experience; or

12 (D) is currently licensed in Kansas as a licensed psychologist,
13 licensed specialist clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional
14 counselor, licensed clinical psychotherapist or licensed clinical marriage
15 and family therapist and provides to the board an attestation from a
16 professional licensed to diagnose and treat mental disorders, or substance
17 use disorders, or both, in independent practice or licensed to practice
18 medicine and surgery stating that the applicant is competent to diagnose
19 and treat substance use disorders;

20 (3) has passed an examination approved by the board;

21 (4) has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits
22 the public trust; and

23 (5) has paid the application fee set under K.S.A. 65-6618, and
24 amendments thereto, and, upon notification from the board that all
25 eligibility requirements have been satisfied, paid the license fee
26 established under K.S.A. 65-6618, and amendments thereto.

27 *(d) (1) An individual may apply to the board for an addiction*
28 *counselor apprentice license in the scope of employment by a community*
29 *mental health center as defined in K.S.A. 39-2002, and amendments*
30 *thereto, a federally qualified health center as defined in K.S.A. 65-7402,*
31 *and amendments thereto, a psychiatric residential treatment facility as*
32 *defined in K.S.A. 39-2002, and amendments thereto, a private treatment*
33 *facility as defined in K.S.A. 59-29b46, and amendments thereto, or a*
34 *facility licensed under article 40 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes*
35 *Annotated, and amendments thereto.*

36 *(2) An addiction counselor apprentice license shall be issued by the*
37 *board if the board reviews and approves the application and the applicant*
38 *has paid the fee set by the board for issuance of an addiction counselor*
39 *apprentice license.*

40 *(3) (A) Absent extenuating circumstances approved by the board, an*
41 *addiction counselor apprentice license issued by the board shall expire:*

42 *(i) Upon the date the board issues or denies a license to practice as*
43 *an addiction counselor; or*

1 (ii) 60 months after the date of issuance of the addiction counselor
2 apprentice license.

3 (B) An addiction counselor apprentice license shall not be renewed
4 or issued again on any subsequent application for the same license level.
5 This subparagraph shall not be construed to limit the number of times an
6 applicant may take the examination.

7 (4) An individual shall not practice addiction counseling under an
8 addiction counselor apprentice license unless such individual is under the
9 direct supervision of an individual licensed by the board to practice at the
10 independent level.

11 (A) The supervisor shall provide a minimum of one hour of individual
12 supervision each week, during which the supervisor and apprentice shall
13 review the apprentice's activities during the period.

14 (B) The supervisor and apprentice shall jointly fill out the required
15 six-month report and notify the board in writing of any change in
16 supervision status within five calendar days after any such change.

17 (5) The scope of practice for an addiction counselor apprentice shall
18 include:

19 (A) Client screening, assessment, evaluation and referral;

20 (B) development of treatment plans with client input;

21 (C) case management services;

22 (D) individual, group and family counseling services;

23 (E) documentation of client treatment progress in the clinical record;

24 (F) crisis intervention services;

25 (G) development and submission of official, written documentation of
26 treatment progress and recommendations for court purposes;

27 (H) adherence to confidentiality requirements for client records and
28 information; and

29 (I) adherence to ethical standards of conduct for addiction
30 counselors.

31 (6) The board shall not issue an addiction counselor apprentice
32 license to an individual who has previously been issued an addiction
33 counselor apprentice license or temporary addiction counselor license.

34 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-6618 is hereby amended to read as
35 follows: 65-6618. (a) The board may collect the following fees, and any
36 such fees shall be established by rules and regulations adopted by the
37 board:

38 (1) For application for licensure as an addiction counselor, not to
39 exceed \$150;

40 (2) for original licensure as an addiction counselor, not to exceed
41 \$150;

42 (3) for renewal for licensure as an addiction counselor, not to exceed
43 \$150;

1 (4) for a temporary license as an addiction counselor, not to exceed
2 \$100;

3 (5) for a six-month reinstatement temporary license as an addiction
4 counselor, not to exceed \$50;

5 (6) for a student temporary addiction counselor license, not to exceed
6 \$100;

7 (7) for renewal for a student temporary addiction counselor license,
8 not to exceed \$100;

9 (8) *for an addiction counselor apprentice license, not to exceed \$100;*

10 (9) for application for licensure as a master's addiction counselor, not
11 to exceed \$150;

12 ~~(9)~~(10) for original licensure as a master's addiction counselor, not to
13 exceed \$150;

14 ~~(10)~~(11) for renewal for licensure as a master's addiction counselor,
15 not to exceed \$150;

16 ~~(11)~~(12) for a temporary license as a master's addiction counselor, not
17 to exceed \$100;

18 ~~(12)~~(13) for a six-month reinstatement temporary license as a master's
19 addiction counselor, not to exceed \$50;

20 ~~(13)~~(14) for application for licensure as a clinical addiction counselor,
21 not to exceed \$150;

22 ~~(14)~~(15) for original licensure as a clinical addiction counselor, not to
23 exceed \$150;

24 ~~(15)~~(16) for renewal for licensure as a clinical addiction counselor,
25 not to exceed \$150;

26 ~~(16)~~(17) for a six-month reinstatement temporary license as a clinical
27 addiction counselor, not to exceed \$50;

28 ~~(17)~~(18) for a temporary permit to practice clinical addiction
29 counseling, not to exceed \$200;

30 ~~(18)~~(19) for extension of a temporary permit to practice clinical
31 addiction counseling, not to exceed \$200;

32 ~~(19)~~(20) for reinstatement of a license, not to exceed \$150;

33 ~~(20)~~(21) for replacement of a license, not to exceed \$20;

34 ~~(21)~~(22) for late renewal penalty, an amount equal to the fee for
35 renewal; and

36 ~~(22)~~(23) for a wallet license, not more than \$5.

37 (b) The board shall require that fees paid for any examination under
38 the addiction counselor licensure act be paid directly to the examination
39 services by the person taking the examination.

40 (c) Fees paid to the board are not refundable.

41 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-6610 and 65-6618 are hereby repealed.

42 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
43 publication in the statute book.