

SUBJECT: License requirements for a chemical dependency counselor

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Rose, Herrero, Darby, Elkins, Hughes, Legler, Naishtat, Walle
0 nays
1 absent — Hernandez

WITNESSES: For — Phyllis Gardner, Texas Association of Addiction Professionals
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code, ch. 504 provides for regulation of the profession of chemical dependency counselors by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

DIGEST: CSHB 3225 would amend Occupations Code, sec. 504.152 to repeal the provision requiring an individual to pass an oral examination when pursuing a license as a chemical dependency counselor. The bill would add a provision requiring DSHS to waive the peer assistance program requirement if the license holder was not actively engaged in the practice of chemical dependency counseling.

The bill would amend Occupations Code, sec. 504.1525(a) to provide that DSHS would not issue a license, registration, or certification to an applicant who had been convicted or placed on community supervision during the last three years, rather than five years, preceding the date of application for an offense equal to a class B misdemeanor.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.