

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

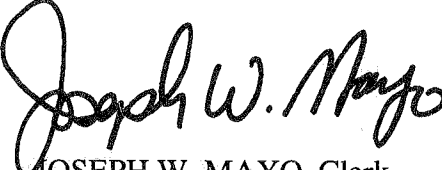
No. 1142

H.P. 837

House of Representatives, February 20, 1997

**An Act to Require That Only Licensed Substance Abuse Counselors
Treat Substance Abuse Problems.**

Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MAILHOT of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and
Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BOUFFARD of Lewiston, CHIZMAR of
Lisbon, CLARK of Millinocket, MARVIN of Cape Elizabeth, McKEE of Wayne,
WINGLASS of Auburn, Senator: BENOIT of Franklin.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §6206, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 1993, c. 635, §1, is further amended to read:

6 5. **Other licensed professionals.** Nothing in this chapter
8 may prevent any other licensed person in the field of medicine,
10 psychology, nursing, social work or professional counseling who
12 ~~is qualified to provide substance abuse counseling services by
virtue of the requirements for that profession~~ from engaging in
14 or offering substance abuse counseling services if such a person
16 ~~does not profess to be providing the service of a substance abuse
counselor as the sole professional service rendered by that~~
18 person as long as that licensed professional successfully
completes the written and oral examinations administered by the
board. ~~These professionals may not be required to obtain
additional certification in order to provide substance abuse
counseling services as permitted by this subsection.~~

20 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §6220,** as amended by PL 1991, c. 456, §33, is
22 further amended to read:

24 **§6220. Reciprocity**

26 The board may waive examination for applicants who are
28 recognized by ~~either credentialing bodies~~ a national certification
reciprocity consortium as having met qualifications and standards
30 determined by the board to be equivalent to those set forth in
this chapter.

32 **SUMMARY**

34 Current law allows licensed health care professionals to
36 provide substance abuse counseling as long as that is not the
only professional service the person provides.

38 This bill requires the licensed professional to successfully
40 complete examinations given by the State Board of Alcohol and
42 Drug Counselors. This bill also allows the State Board of
44 Alcohol and Drug Counselors to waive examination for applicants
if the National Certification Reciprocity Consortium or a similar
organization recognizes the person as having met state licensing
requirements for substance abuse counselors.