



AB 1367

ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE COUNSELING LICENSURE ACT

- **ENCOURAGES HIGHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**
- **GIVES CONSUMERS A WAY TO CHOOSE COMPETENT COUNSELORS**
- **UTILIZES EXISTING BOARD**
- **USES RECOGNIZED TESTS AND STANDARDS**
- **MAXIMIZES PROP 36 INVESTMENT**
- **LIMITS SCOPE OF PRACTICE TO AODA ISSUES ONLY**
- **FULLY FUNDED BY LICENSING FEES**

Introduced by Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier,
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A NEW PLAN FOR BUILDING CALIFORNIA'S PRIVATE SECTOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELING CAPACITY

Consumer Safety- Professionals will finally be able to provide consumers with documented levels of skill, experience and education that can be easily identified by consumers, as well as employers and legal authorities. Consumers will have a means to address complaints and seek out professionals who follow a Code of Ethics which prohibits abusive and incompetent behavior.

Doesn't Impact the State Budget- Through the collection of registration, intern, and licensure fees, the program is self-supporting and gives the Department of Consumer Affairs the financing necessary to provide timely implementation.

Inclusiveness—Licensure will be voluntary for those who wish to pass national competency measures, additionally a variety of well-established and trusted certifying organizations will be included in a limited "grandparenting" period.

Career and Capacity Building- California is one of only a handful of states without licensure of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) counselors. This cripples the private sector's ability to treat addiction and places a huge burden on public (tax payer supported) programs to provide rehabilitation services.

Title Restriction Legislation- Professionals who want to meet the high standards of licensure can voluntarily choose to become licensed and may only use the title of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor if they complete rigorous competency measures.

Doesn't Re-invent the Wheel—Utilizes the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners for implementation and relies on currently accepted standards and testing tools. Everyone gets a voice and every addict receives a chance to see a counselor with proven abilities.