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House BILL NO. 436

INTRODUCED BY *Kethel*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELORS; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS BY RULE; AND AMENDING SECTION 53-24-215, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 53-24-215, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-24-215. Certification of chemical dependency counselors.** (1) The department shall grant certification to practice as a certified chemical dependency counselor to any person who successfully completes a competency examination that must include a written exam, an oral exam, and a review of a taped work sample, as meets the eligibility requirements and competency standards defined in rules adopted under 53-24-204.

(2) A person may apply for certification as a certified chemical dependency counselor if he:

(a) has:

(i) received a baccalaureate degree in alcohol and drug studies, psychology, sociology, social work, counseling, or a related field from an accredited college or university;

(ii) received an associate of arts degree in alcohol and drug studies, chemical dependency, or substance abuse from an accredited institution; or

(iii) successfully completed at least 1 year of formalized training in chemical dependency counseling in a program approved by the department or recognized under the laws of another state; and

(b) has completed 2,000 hours of supervised work experience in chemical dependency counseling in a state approved chemical dependency treatment program, an internship supervised by the college or university and endorsed by the department, or a similar program recognized under the laws of another state. Work experience must include experience in 12 core function areas, including screening, intake, orientation, assessment, treatment planning, individual and group counseling, case management, crisis intervention, client education, referral, recordkeeping, and consultation with other professionals in regard to client treatment and services. The department may by rule require an applicant to successfully complete

1 a competency examination defined in rules adopted under 53-24-204.

2 (3) The department may provide by rule for certification without examination of a person certified  
3 under the laws of another state if the person meets the minimum eligibility requirements and competency  
4 standards for certification in Montana."

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14 (3) The department ~~may by rule~~ SHALL require an applicant to successfully complete a competency  
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16 ~~(3)~~(4) The department may provide by rule for certification without examination of a person  
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