

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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**SB 707 (DeSaulnier)**

Summary of June 23, 2009 Amended Version

- Establishes the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselor Certification and Licensing Act, effective January 1, 2012.
- Authorizes four types of AOD counselor: Registered AOD Counselor (RAODC), Certified AOD Counselor (CAODC), Certified AOD Counselor-Clinical Supervisor (CAODC-CS), and Licensed AOD Counselor (LAODC).
- Authorizes the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to set requirements for application, registration, education, and work experience.
- Authorizes ADP to develop or recognize a test for each level of certification or licensure.
- Authorizes ADP to administer or provide for the administration of tests for each level of certification and licensure by such means as it finds appropriate.
- Authorizes ADP to issue certificates, licenses, and registrations.
- Authorizes ADP to collect related fees, as specified.
- Authorizes ADP to maintain a database to track counselors through the system.
- Authorizes ADP to issue licenses or certificates to each AOD counselor who is certified in the current system (i.e., grandparenting) on or before December 31, 2011, provided the individual submits a timely application, pays the applicable fees, and passes a criminal background check.
- Authorizes LAODC level to practice outside of a program licensed or certified by ADP.
- Requires ADP to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations to ADP concerning curriculum, criminal background checks, unprofessional conduct, and such other matters that ADP may refer to the committee.



- Specifies that education, supervised experience, and work experience gained outside of California may be accepted toward the licensure or certification requirements if it is substantially the equivalent of the new requirements for AOD counselors.
- Requires six hours of education in law and ethics and ten hours of education in the recognition of co-occurring disorders for all tiers of certification/licensure.
- Authorizes ADP to recognize additional education and curriculum accrediting entities.
- Specifies the scope of practice for AOD counseling.
- Requires applicants for a license, certification, or registration to consent to a state and federal level criminal offender record information search as part of a criminal history background check.
- Authorizes ADP to deny, revoke, suspend, or impose conditions upon a license, certification, or registration based upon the criminal history background check, as specified.
- Authorizes authority to investigate complaints, and to take disciplinary action, as specified.
- Makes it unlawful for a person to engage in the practice of AOD counseling without a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked registration, certification, or license.
- Establishes the Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor License Fund for the deposit of fees and fines, and for the expenditure of funds for the purpose of AOD Counselor Certification and Licensing Act, upon appropriation by the Legislature.