

House Research Act Summary

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TOPIC: Alcohol and Drug Counselors

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Overview

This act modifies three provisions relating to alcohol and drug counselors, who are regulated by the commissioner of health. Section 1 eliminates language requiring the commissioner of health to biennially report to the legislature on alcohol and drug counselor licensure activities. Section 2 establishes requirements for exchanging information regarding alcohol and drug counselors with governmental agencies in Minnesota and other states. Section 3 provides that only licensed school counselors, not all school counselors, are exempt from alcohol and drug counselor licensing requirements if they provide alcohol and drug counseling services.

- 1 **General.** Amends § 148C.03, subd. 1. Eliminates language requiring the commissioner of health to biennially report to the legislature on alcohol and drug counselor licensure activities and specifying the content of the report. (Similar reporting requirements also exist in chapter 214, and the commissioner will continue to submit required information on alcohol and drug counselor licensure to the administrative services unit.)
- 2 **Investigations; professional cooperation; exchanging information.** Amends § 148C.099. A new subdivision 2 directs the commissioner of health to establish internal operating procedures for exchanging information about alcohol and drug counselors with state boards, agencies, health and law enforcement facilities, and law enforcement personnel; and for coordinating investigations that involve the jurisdictions of more than one agency. Specifies what the procedures for exchanging information must include. Also requires the commissioner to establish procedures for exchanging information with other states regarding disciplinary actions against alcohol and drug counselors, and requires the commissioner to forward to another agency any complaints received by the commissioner that are within the jurisdiction of that agency. Requires the commissioner to describe to a complainant the actions the commissioner takes regarding the complaint.
- 3 **Other professionals.** Amends § 148C.11, subd. 1. Amends a subdivision specifying that

members of the listed occupations may practice according to their qualifications without being licensed as an alcohol and drug counselor, by providing that a school counselor who provides alcohol and drug counseling services must be licensed either as a school counselor or as an alcohol and drug counselor. (Current law exempts all school counselors practicing within the scope of their employment from the alcohol and drug counselor licensing requirements, not just licensed school counselors.)