

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 396

By: Bergstrom of the Senate

3 and

4 Kendrix of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to professions and occupations;  
7 amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1873, as amended by  
8 Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp.  
9 2024, Section 1873), which relates to the Oklahoma  
10 Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors;  
11 extending sunset date; updating statutory language;  
12 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
13 emergency.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1873, as  
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
17 Section 1873), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1873. A. There is hereby re-created, to continue until  
19 ~~July 1, 2025~~ July 1, 2028, in accordance with the provisions of the  
20 Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug  
21 Counselors, consisting of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the  
22 Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, as follows:

- 23 1. a. Six members who shall be alcohol and drug counselors  
24 certified by an entity recognized to do professional  
alcohol and drug counseling certification in this  
state; provided, however, five of such members shall

1 subsequently secure licensure and one such member  
2 shall subsequently secure certification, pursuant to  
3 the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug  
4 Counselors Act, no later than January 1, 2005.

5 b. Thereafter, five members shall be licensed alcohol and  
6 drug counselors at the time of appointment, and one  
7 member shall be certified as an alcohol and drug  
8 counselor at the time of appointment.

9 c. Pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, the  
10 Governor shall appoint:

11 (1) four members from a list of names submitted by  
12 the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Professional  
13 ~~Counselors~~ Counselor Association,

14 (2) one member from a list of names submitted by the  
15 Oklahoma Substance Abuse Services Alliance, and

16 (3) one member from a list of names submitted by the  
17 Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and  
18 ~~Treatment~~ Transformation Association.

19 d. One member shall be appointed from and shall represent  
20 the general public. Such member shall be a resident  
21 of this state who has attained the age of majority and  
22 shall not be, nor shall ever have been, a licensed or  
23 certified alcohol and drug counselor, or the spouse of  
24 a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, or

1 a person who has ever had any material financial  
2 interest in the provision of alcohol and drug  
3 counseling services or has engaged in any activity  
4 directly related to the practice of alcohol and drug  
5 counseling.

6 2. The composition of the Board shall include five members who  
7 hold a master's or higher degree and one member whose highest degree  
8 held is a bachelor's degree.

9 3. The Governor shall appoint the members to the Board no later  
10 than July 1, 2004.

11 B. Each member of the Board appointed as a licensed alcohol and  
12 drug counselor shall:

13 1. Be certified or licensed to engage in the practice of  
14 alcohol and drug counseling in this state and shall be in good  
15 standing; and

16 2. Have at least three (3) years of experience in the practice  
17 of alcohol and drug counseling in this state.

18 C. Two of the members initially appointed shall serve three-  
19 year terms; two shall serve four-year terms; and three shall serve  
20 five-year terms, as designated by the Governor. Thereafter, the  
21 terms of all members shall be five (5) years.

22 D. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled in the same manner as  
23 the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.  
24 Members may succeed themselves but shall serve no more than two

1 consecutive terms. Each member shall serve until a successor is  
2 appointed and qualified.

3 E. Members of the Board may be removed from office for one or  
4 more of the following reasons:

5 1. The refusal or inability for any reason to perform the  
6 duties of a Board member in an efficient, responsible and  
7 professional manner;

8 2. The misuse of office for pecuniary or material gain or for  
9 personal advantage for self or another;

10 3. A violation of the laws or rules governing the practice of  
11 alcohol and drug counseling; or

12 4. Conviction of a felony as verified by a certified copy of  
13 the record of the court of conviction.

14 F. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but  
15 shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel expenses as  
16 provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

18 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

1 Passed the Senate the 25th day of March, 2025.

2  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2025.

7  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives