

Annual List of Rulemaking Activity
Rules Adopted January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018
Prepared by the Secretary of State pursuant to 5 MRS §8053-A, sub-§5

Agency name: Department of Professional and Financial Regulation,
Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation,
Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors

Umbrella-Unit: **02-384**

Statutory authority: 10 MRS §8003(2-A)(E); 32 MRS §6212; PL 2017 ch.265

Chapter number/title: **Ch. 7**, Continuing Professional Education for Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Alcohol and Drug Counseling Aides and Certified Clinical Supervisors

Filing number: **2018-118**

Effective date: 7/7/2018

Type of rule: Routine Technical

Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:

These amendments to Ch. 7 are in response to PL 2017 ch. 265, *An Act To Remove Barriers to Workforce Development in Alcohol and Drug Counseling*, which became effective on November 1, 2017. Section 4 of Ch. 265 mandated these changes.

Basis statement:

The amendments:

- Reduce the number of required hours of continuing professional education for certified alcohol and drug counselors from 24 contact hours every 2 years to 18 contact hours every 2 years;
- Reduce the hours for continuing professional education for licensed alcohol and drug counselors from 36 contact hours every 2 years to 25 contact hours every 2 years;
- Reduce the hours for continuing professional education for licensed alcohol and drug counselors who are also certified clinical supervisors from a total of 48 contact hours every 2 years to a total of 37 contact hours every 2 years;
- Increase the maximum hours allowed for distance learning as a permissible continuing education activity from 10 hours to 20 hours;
- Remove references to "registered" alcohol and drug counselors in Section 2, Sub-section 4; and
- Make minor spelling, punctuation and numbering changes for housekeeping purposes.

Testimony submitted in connection with the legislation mandating these changes indicates that these rule amendments will better align the continuing education units (CEUs) for maintaining credentials with similar fields in social work to help relieve what is perceived to be an overly high burden placed on alcohol and drug counselors. The rule amendments will also allow more continuing education hours to be taken on line, which proponents of the mandating legislation maintain are critical in a rural state like Maine where face-to-face opportunities are limited.

Fiscal impact of rule:

The lowered CEU requirements should reduce licensees' costs to maintain credentialing, with a concomitant reduction in income derived by providers of such educational services.