



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
LANSING

ANNETTE E. FLOOD
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: February 10, 2015

TO: Debt Management Licensees and Interested Parties

FROM: Mark W. Weigold, Director
Consumer Finance Section

SUBJECT: Amended Debt Management Act – Certification of Counselors

As you know, Governor Snyder signed SB 664 - now Public Act 362 of 2014 - on December 16, 2014. PA 362 takes effect on March 16, 2015 and amends certain sections of the Debt Management Act.

A significant amendment to the Act includes the elimination of the examination requirement for debt management counselors found under Section 6(3) of the current Act. The amended Act will require debt management counselors to become “certified counselors,” which is defined as follows:

Sec. 2(b) "Certified counselor" means an individual who is certified by a training program or **certifying organization** [emphasis added], approved by the director, that authenticates the competence of individuals who provide education and assistance to other individuals in connection with debt counseling and financial counseling functions.

DIFS has developed an application form to be completed by counselor certifying organizations that wish to be approved in Michigan. The form, FIS 2303 “Counselor Certification Program – Debt Management Act” can be found at this link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/difs/FIS_2303_480812_7.pdf

If your organization utilizes the services of a certifying organization in another state which currently requires certification of counselors, we ask that you forward this communication to any such organization.

Michigan debt management licensees will be provided with an approved listing of certifying organizations once available. The listing will also be posted on the DIFS website.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Consumer Finance Licensing Unit at 1-877-999-6442.