

**SB0958/654538/1**

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 958  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “Licensure,” insert “Disciplinary Action,”; in line 4, after “of” insert “authorizing the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to take action against a clinical professional counselor only if the Board discusses certain proposed disciplinary action with a certain Board member and a certain Board member votes; authorizing a licensed professional counselor or therapist to engage in certain advanced assessment activities, rather than appraisal activities, if the licensed professional counselor or therapist has completed certain training;”; in line 5, strike “State”; in lines 5 and 6, strike “of Professional Counselors and Therapists”; in line 20, after “trainees;” insert “defining a certain term;”; in line 24, after “Section” insert “17-205(c),”; and in the same line, after “17-304.1,” insert “17-310,”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 10, insert:

“17-205.

(c) (1) The Board may take action against a marriage and family therapist only if:

(i) Before taking action against the marriage and family therapist, the Board discusses the proposed action with a Board member who is a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist; and

(ii) A Board member who is a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist votes, either in the affirmative or in the negative, on the proposed action.

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(2) The Board may take action against an alcohol and drug counselor only if:

(i) Before taking action against the alcohol and drug counselor, the Board discusses the proposed action with a Board member who is a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor; and

(ii) A Board member who is a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor votes, either in the affirmative or in the negative, on the proposed action.

**(3) THE BOARD MAY TAKE ACTION AGAINST A CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ONLY IF:**

**(I) BEFORE TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR, THE BOARD DISCUSSES THE PROPOSED ACTION WITH A BOARD MEMBER WHO IS A LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR; AND**

**(II) A BOARD MEMBER WHO IS A LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR VOTES, EITHER IN THE AFFIRMATIVE OR IN THE NEGATIVE, ON THE PROPOSED ACTION.**

[(3)] (4) The Board shall investigate all complaints filed against licensed counselors and therapists if, at the time of the violation, the licensed counselor or therapist has also registered and qualified for psychology associate status by virtue of holding a master's degree under Title 18 (Maryland Psychologists Act) of this article.

[(4)] (5) The Board shall notify the Board of Examiners of Psychologists of the complaint in writing within 60 days of receipt of the complaint if an investigation of the supervising licensed psychologists is warranted.

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[(5)] (6) The Board shall initiate disciplinary action against any licensed counselor or therapist who also registers as a psychology associate and violates any portion of this statute.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, after line 15, insert:

“17-310.

**(A) IN THIS SECTION “ADVANCED ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES” MEANS THE USE OF APPRAISAL INSTRUMENTS THAT REQUIRE SPECIALIZED PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION.**

**(B) A licensed counselor or therapist may engage in [appraisal activities that include instruments that require specialized psychological training for administration and interpretation] ADVANCED ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES if the licensed counselor or therapist has completed training that includes:**

**(1) Possession of a doctoral or master’s degree in counseling or a related field that includes a minimum of nine graduate courses of at least 3 semester hours in each of the following courses:**

- (i) Psychopathology;**
- (ii) Biological bases of behavior;**
- (iii) Research methods;**
- (iv) Advanced statistics;**

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(v) Tests and measures;

(vi) Intellectual assessment;

(vii) Personality assessment;

(viii) Ethics; and

(ix) Practicum in advanced assessment;

(2) Completion of 500 hours of supervised, direct, client-related, advanced assessment testing that is completed not less than 2 years following the completion of the master's degree, of which a minimum of 100 hours shall include face-to-face supervision by a supervisor who is:

(i) A licensed mental health professional;

(ii) Proficient in the use of advanced assessment tests; and

(iii) Approved by the Board; and

(3) Passage of a national examination that includes items on advanced assessment that evaluate knowledge of advanced assessment procedures.”.