

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 409
Finance

(Senators Klausmeier and Gile)

Health and Government Operations

**Health Occupations - Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists - Reciprocal
Licensure Requirements**

This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to waive the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a clinical marriage and family therapist for an applicant that is licensed or certified to practice clinical marriage and family therapy in another state, territory, or jurisdiction if specified requirements are met. The board may not require the applicant to pass a national certification exam but may require that the applicant pass an examination of specified State law requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board must waive the education, experience, and examination requirements for an applicant licensed or certified to practice clinical marriage and family therapy in another state, territory, or jurisdiction if the applicant:

- has no history of disciplinary action (past or pending) in a state, territory, or jurisdiction in which the applicant holds their license or certification;

- has not committed any act or omission that would be grounds for discipline or denial of licensure under State law; and
- submits to the board a copy of a current license from each state, territory, or jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized to practice clinical marriage and family therapy.

As under current law, an applicant must also submit an application and pay the application fee set by the board.

Current Law:

Licensure Requirements – In General

To qualify for a license to practice clinical marriage and family therapy, an applicant must be at least 18 years old and of good moral character. Applicants must:

- hold a master's or doctoral degree in a marriage and family field from an accredited educational institution that is approved by the board, or have completed a program of studies judged by the board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as may be required in board regulations;
- have completed any additional educational requirements established in board regulations and provide documentation evidencing the completion of such from an accredited college or university approved by the board;
- have completed not less than 2 years with a minimum of 2,000 hours of supervised experiences in marriage and family therapy approved by the board (of which 2 years must be completed after the award of the master's, doctoral degree, or its substantial equivalent) and provide documentation evidencing completion; and
- pass a board-approved examination.

Licensure Requirements – Out of State Licensees

The board must waive the requirements for licensure to practice clinical marriage and family therapy if the applicant is licensed or certified as a clinical marriage and family therapist in another state, territory or jurisdiction that has requirements that are equivalent to or exceed the licensure requirements specified above. The applicant must also submit an application and fee to the board.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 628 (Delegate S. Johnson) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2024
js/jc Third Reader - February 23, 2024

Analysis by: Amber R. Gundlach

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510