



Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 285 - Family Law - Custody Evaluators - Qualifications and Training

Hearing Date: February 9, 2023

Position: Favorable

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 285– Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training*. The bill establishes parameters for who is qualified to evaluate children to advise the court in custody determinations. The bill stems from the recommendations of the Workgroup to Study Child Custody Court Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations, which was established by SB 567 in the 2019 session.

We strongly support this bill because custody evaluators need to be qualified and have specific training in the subject matter. Maryland’s children deserve and need competent professionals to help guide the courts.

We ask for a favorable report with our clarifying amendments. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.