

# **LCPCM- X HB 745-Behavior Analysts – Licensure Appl**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee  
Bill: HB 745 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Behavior Analysts – Licensure Applications  
Hearing Date: March 19, 2025  
Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports HB 745 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Behavior Analysts – Licensure Applications as amended. This bill puts certain time requirements in place for the issuance of a behavior analyst license and requires notification from the Board to applicants when applications are received, begin review, determined more information is necessary, or decisions are made to issue or deny a license.

LCPCM supports the establishment of timeframes for the review and issuance of licenses, as well as providing communication as to application status throughout the process. The extension of the timeframe to 30 days will ensure adequate time for thorough review, appropriate action, and is consistent with the processing time for other licenses.

For these reasons, LCPCM urges the Committee to give HB 745 a FAVORABLE Report

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at [amansfield@maniscanning.com](mailto:amansfield@maniscanning.com) or (410)562-1617 if we can provide additional information.

# **ACORN 2025 Testimony for Senate - SUPPORT - HB 745**

Uploaded by: Barbara Brocato

Position: FAV

# **BROCATO & SHATTUCK CONSULTING**

**Date:** March 19, 2025

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair

**Bill:** House Bill 745 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists –  
Behavior Analysts – Licensure Applications

**Position:** SUPPORT

On behalf of Acorn Health, we are here in strong support of House Bill 745. Acorn Health is a standard-setting family of ABA treatment providers. Our behavior analytic professionals develop, apply, and share the latest advances in the science of ABA, always focused on data and outcomes. Acorn Health providers combine proven best practices with pioneering, evidence-based next practices, engaging whole families. Acorn Health operates in Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia.

As passed by the House, House Bill 745 "requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to issue a license to practice behavior analysis to qualified applicants within 30 days of receiving the completed application; requires the State Board to issue a license within 50 days to an applicant who submitted an incomplete application but has presented additional information, and requires the State Board to provide a certain e-mail notification regarding the status of an application for a license to practice behavior analysis."

In communications with the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists they have indicated that licensing processing can take an average of 3 months, depending on the state of the application. The Board has stated that they only review applications after the application fee payment is processed and this review begins within 30 days of the payment being processed.

This extended timeline stands in stark contrast to recent improvements made by other Maryland health agencies. The Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration has recently implemented significant reforms to their licensing process, including a new online submission system launching February 10, 2025. Their comprehensive review included analyzing application volumes, comparing licensing practices across state healthcare agencies, and implementing new workflows to improve efficiency.

There is a well-documented demand for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in Maryland. There are hundreds if not thousands of kids with autism who benefit from ABA therapy. Many remain on waiting lists for services due to a shortage of qualified and licensed staff.

The concern is especially focused on qualified BCBAs that have been submitting complete applications. The turnaround time in Maryland is much longer than in neighboring States. This in

turn directly impacts the time a child must wait to begin receiving life-changing services. The sooner licenses can be approved, the sooner children with autism can begin therapy.

While we recognize that transitioning to more efficient systems requires careful planning, other Maryland agencies have demonstrated that modernization is both possible and beneficial. The BHA's recent implementation of an online licensing system shows that state agencies can successfully streamline their processes while maintaining quality standards.

House Bill proposes establishing a fixed timeframe for licenses to be issued. We understand the staffing pressures that are being felt by the Board, however it is a fundamental function, an obligation of the Board to review and process licenses in a transparent and timely fashion. It is critical for organizations such as ours to provide the services that are so desperately needed by children with autism and their families.

We ask for a favorable report on House Bill 745.

**For more information contact Barbara Brocato and Dan Shattuck  
at [barbara@bmbassoc.com](mailto:barbara@bmbassoc.com) and P: 410-269-1503**

# **HB 745 - Favorable - Del. Guyton - Senate.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Favorable**

**HB 745 – State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Behavior Analysts**

Dear Madam Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 745 to help improve access to effective therapy for autism. One of the most beneficial therapies for children with autism is Applied Behavior Analysis. However, many families remain on waiting lists for services due to a severe shortage of qualified and licensed therapists. Turnaround time for the licensure process in Maryland is much longer than in neighboring States. This directly impacts the time a child must wait to begin receiving life-changing services. The sooner licenses can be approved, the sooner children with autism can begin therapy and the more effective it will be.

HB 745 establishes a timeline for the issuance of a license to practice behavior analysis to a qualified applicant. This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to issue a license within 30 days of receiving the completed application; and requires the State Board to provide e-mail notification regarding the status of an application for a license to practice ABA.

This bill was unanimously passed out of the House. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton