



Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Bill: SB 222 - Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications  
Hearing Date: January 20, 2025  
Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports Senate Bill 222 - Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators – Qualifications with amendments. This 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. LCPCM offers the following amendment to further strengthen the competency and qualifications of custody evaluators. This amendment will require that all custody evaluators hold a professional license issued by the State and have satisfied all national examination requirements customarily required for independent clinical licensure in that profession at the time the license was issued.

On page 3, following line 10, insert, A CUSTODY EVALUATOR SHALL HOLD A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE ISSUED BY THE STATE AND HAVE SATISFIED NATIONAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE PROFESSION AT THE TIME THE LICENSED WAS ISSUED.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give SB 222 a FAVORABLE Report with the suggested amendment as Maryland’s children deserve and need competent professionals to help guide the courts.

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