

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 331 (Delegates Hixson and Bonsack)

Environmental Matters

Clinical Social Workers - Qualifications for Licensure

This bill provides an alternative qualification for licensure as a certified clinical social worker. An applicant who meets the following qualifications may also qualify for a certified social worker-clinical license: (1) a master’s degree in psychology and documentation of clinical course work from an accredited college or university and based on an accredited graduate psychology program; and (2) the required amount of supervised clinical psychology experience as specified in the bill. Under current law, only applicants with a master’s degree in social work who meet other specified educational and training requirements may qualify for a certified social worker-clinical license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues could increase by \$7,500 in FY 1999. Future year revenues assume a constant number of new applicants each year, attrition, and biennial renewals. Special fund expenditures could increase by \$7,200 in FY 1999. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
SF Revenues	\$7,500	\$800	\$30,500	\$800	\$32,900
SF Expenditures	\$7,200	\$7,000	\$7,100	\$7,200	\$7,300
Net Effect	\$300	(\$6,200)	\$23,400	(\$6,400)	\$25,600

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: It is estimated that approximately 300 psychology associates would apply for licensure in the first year. As a result, special fund revenues are expected to increase by \$7,500 in fiscal 1999 (300 applicants x \$25 initial application fee). Future year revenues assume 30 new applicants a year, 10% attrition in each renewal period, and biennial renewal fee of \$100.

State Expenditures: Special fund expenditures could increase by \$7,209 in fiscal 1999, which accounts for the October 1, 1998 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual quarter-time Office Clerk to process the license applications. The estimate also includes one-time start-up costs and ongoing operating expenses. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and 1% inflation.

Small Business Effect: This bill may qualify more individuals as certified clinical social workers. To the extent that some of these individuals could be self-employed, this bill would positively affect them.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Social Work Examiners, Board of Examiners of Psychologists), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 1998
Inc

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