

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 253

(Delegate Hubbard)

Environmental Matters

Finance

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Mental Hygiene - Emergency Evaluation Petitions - Licensed Clinical  
Professional Counselors

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This bill allows a licensed clinical professional counselor to petition for an emergency evaluation of an individual if the petitioner has reason to believe that the person has a mental disorder and that there is clear and imminent danger of the individual doing bodily harm to himself or another person.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The change would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Under existing statute, the health professionals who may petition for an emergency evaluation of an individual with a suspected mental disorder are a physician, a psychologist, a clinical social worker, or a health officer or designee of a health officer who has examined the individual. The petition is given to a “peace officer” who must take the emergency evaluatee to an emergency facility, where the evaluatee must be examined by a physician within six hours to determine whether the evaluatee meets the requirements for involuntary admission. The evaluatee must be released after the examination unless the evaluatee asks for voluntary admission or meets the requirements

for involuntary admission. An emergency evaluatee cannot be kept at an emergency facility for more than 30 hours.

**Background:** There are 3,499 licensed clinical professional counselors in Maryland.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 25, 2002  
mam/jr

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