

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 622 (Delegate Eckardt)
 Health and Government Operations

Health Occupations - Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists

This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the board) to license and regulate clinical pastoral therapists.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues would increase by \$87,500 in FY 2004 due to license fees. Special fund expenditures would increase by \$61,000 in FY 2004 due to staffing costs and operations. Out-year estimates reflect the biennial license cycle, annualization, and inflation.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
SF Revenue	\$87,500	\$8,800	\$108,800	\$18,800	\$118,800
SF Expenditure	61,000	71,600	75,900	80,500	85,600
Net Effect	\$26,500	(\$62,800)	\$32,900	(\$61,700)	\$33,200

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful impact on small pastoral therapist businesses due to licensure and regulation requirements.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to license and regulate pastoral therapists. The board is authorized to adopt regulations to implement this bill.

Clinical pastoral therapy is defined as mental health counseling and spiritual guidance in providing services involving the application of counseling principles and methods in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of psychological problems, emotional conditions, or mental conditions of an individual or group.

Licensure will require: (1) evidence of good moral character including two letters of reference attesting to the moral character of the applicant; (2) a Master of Divinity degree or doctoral degree with a major in pastoral counseling from an accredited institution of higher education; (3) certification by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) or another nationally recognized pastoral counseling association; (4) practice in clinical pastoral therapy for five years after receiving certification from AAPC; and (5) completion of 3,000 contact hours of supervised counseling experience with an approved supervisor.

Applicants must pay an application fee set by the board. The bill also provides for reciprocity if an individual is licensed as a clinical pastoral therapist in another state if that individual meets the qualifications for licensure in Maryland and pays an application fee set by the board.

Current Law: Clinical pastoral therapists are not regulated or licensed by the board.

State Revenues: The board estimates that initial licenses for clinical pastoral therapists will be set at \$175 for a two-year license. Renewal licenses are estimated at \$200. It is estimated that there will be 500 initial applicants for licensure, and 50 additional applications in the out-years.

State Expenditures: Special fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$61,040 in fiscal 2004, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2003 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one Administrative Specialist III and one-half Health Inspector III to assist the board in licensing and regulating clinical pastoral therapists, including reviewing applications and processing licenses. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, office space lease costs, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$47,511
Operating Expenses	<u>13,529</u>
Total FY 2004 State Expenditures	\$61,040

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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 - February 24, 2003
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Daniel P. Tompkins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510