

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 896

(Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Professional Counselors and Therapists - Specialized Test Administration -
Standards

This bill requires the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to adopt: (1) regulations that establish competency standards for the interpretation and administration, using straightforward paper and pencil measures, of interest inventories, nonindividually administered intelligence tests, and personality inventories by a licensed clinical professional counselor, a licensed professional counselor-marriage and family therapist, or an individual licensed by the board to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State; and (2) minimum continuing education credit requirements for the competency standards established.

The State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 1, 2003 on the status of the development of regulations and legislation.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not materially affect State government operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill also requires the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, the Maryland Psychological Association, and the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland, Inc. to develop and propose regulations or legislation regarding: (1) the education and competency standards to be met by Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors, Licensed Professional Counselor-Marriage and Family Therapists, and individuals licensed to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State; (2) the administration and interpretation of tests that require an advanced level of understanding of psychopathology, theories and methods of assessment, and diagnosis; (3) specific diagnostic groups assessed by specific instruments; (4) research methods underlying the test development and use; (5) statistics involved in test scoring and interpretation; and (6) ethics related to the use of test information.

Current Law: Licensed or certified professional counselors are permitted to use appraisal instruments which require specialized psychological training only if the training is found by the Board of Psychology and the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to be equivalent to that of a licensed psychologist who is qualified to administer the same type of instrument.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that licensed clinical professional counselors are small businesses, this bill may increase regulatory impact and continuing education costs. Any additional costs are expected to be minimal.

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 - March 12, 2003
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Analysis by: Daniel P. Tompkins

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