

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 953 (Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Specialized Psychological Testing

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This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to authorize licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselors, marriage and family therapists, or professional counselors who meet specified training requirements to administer and interpret specialized psychological tests.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues could increase in FY 2005 depending on the number of licensees seeking psychological testing certifications. For illustrative purposes only, if approximately 7% of all licensees pay a biennial \$175 certification fee, special fund revenues could increase by \$45,675 in FY 2005. Future year revenues will depend on the number of new certificates awarded and the number of renewals. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** To qualify to administer and interpret specialized psychological tests, an individual must: (1) be licensed to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling, clinical marriage and family therapy, or clinical professional counseling; and (2) meet the board-defined specialized psychological training requirements. The board's minimum specialized psychological training requirements set in regulation must include a minimum

of: (1) 1,200 hours of assessment-related clinical experience under the supervision of a person who is board licensed, authorized, qualified, and approved to administer and interpret specialized psychological tests; and (2) five graduate-level courses in cognitive and achievement assessment, personality and behavioral assessment, clinical assessment, appraisal, and research and evaluation.

The required supervised clinical experience and coursework may be completed as part of or in addition to the required supervised experience and graduate coursework. The board must issue a written certificate for the administration and interpretation of specialized psychological tests to an applicant who meets the bill's requirements. The certificate must state that the applicant is approved to administer and interpret specialized psychological tests.

**Current Law:** Generally, to qualify for licensing an applicant must be of good moral character and be at least 18 years old. Applicants must have a master's or doctoral degree in a professional counseling field from a board-approved accredited educational institution. For an applicant who only has a master's degree, the applicant must have completed at least 60 graduate credit hours in board-approved counselor training and not less than three years, with a minimum of 3,000 hours, of supervised experience in board-approved counseling, two years of which must have been completed after the master's degree was awarded. For an applicant holding a doctoral degree, the applicant must have completed at least 90 graduate credit hours in board-approved counselor training and not less than two years of supervised experience in board-approved counseling, one year of which must have been completed after the doctoral degree was awarded.

Counselor training includes a variety of types of instruction, including: (1) counseling theory and ethics; (2) counseling techniques; (3) group dynamics, processing, and counseling; (4) appraisal of individuals; and (5) research and evaluation.

An individual may practice as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor if the person has: (1) a master's or doctoral degree in a health and human services counseling field and completed 60 hours of graduate course work, including specific training in areas such as personality development and diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, from a board-accredited college or university; and (2) passed the board-approved National Alcohol and Drug Counselor Examination.

An individual may practice as a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist under supervision for a limited time if the person has: (1) a master's or doctoral degree in a marriage and family field and completed 60 hours of graduate course work, including training in specific areas such as personality development and family therapy from a board-accredited college or university; and (2) passed the board-approved National Marriage and Family Therapy Examination.

An individual may practice as a licensed clinical professional counselor under supervision for a limited time if the person has: (1) a master's or doctoral degree in a professional counseling field and completed 60 hours of graduate coursework, including training in personality development, diagnosis, and treatment of mental and emotional disorders; and (2) has passed the board-approved National Professional Counselor Examination.

**Background:** There are a total of 3,867 professional counselors regulated in Maryland. The board would charge \$175 for a biennial license.

**State Revenues:** Special fund revenues could increase in fiscal 2005 and future years depending on the number of individuals applying to become certified to perform psychological tests. The number of certifications that would be sought cannot be reliably estimated at this time. For illustrative purposes only, if 10% of licensees holding a master's degree (130) and 50% of licensees holding a doctoral degree (131) apply for certification in fiscal 2005 and pay a \$175 biennial fee, special fund revenues could increase by \$45,675 in fiscal 2005. Future year revenues will depend on the number of new certifications issued each year and the number of renewals.

Future year special fund revenue increases would depend on the number of individuals applying for and renewing certifications.

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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 - March 2, 2004  
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