

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 955

(Delegate Hubbard)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Licenses and
Certificates - Reciprocity**

This bill authorizes the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to waive the certification requirements for an applicant who is certified or otherwise authorized to practice in another state, territory, or jurisdiction as a professional counselor-alcohol and drug, associate counselor-alcohol and drug, and supervised counselor-alcohol and drug. The board also may waive licensure requirements for an applicant who is licensed to practice as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor or as a clinical professional counselor in another state, territory, or jurisdiction. The other state's, territory's, or jurisdiction's requirements must meet or exceed the board's requirements. Applicants must submit an application and application fee to the board. The board must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues may increase to the extent that the bill encourages more individuals to apply for board certification and licensure and pay certificate and license fees. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists must waive the certification requirements for a certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug, a

certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug, a certified supervised counselor-alcohol and drug for a person who meets specified educational and professional requirements. Applicants seeking a waiver of the certification requirements must have filed a letter of intent with the board by October 1, 2001, and as of July 1, 2001, be certified in their respective profession by a professional board, commission, association, or consortium, by another state, or be employed at a specific professional level or higher in an agency or facility accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Background: The board advises that it occasionally receives calls from counselors licensed or certified in another state or in the District of Columbia inquiring if the board waives licensing requirements for professionals currently practicing. However, the board cannot reliably determine at this time how many more individuals may apply for certification or licensure as a result of this bill.

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 22, 2006
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