

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 866 (Senator Conway)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Professional Counselors and Therapists - Definition of Appraisal

This bill expands the scope of practice for licensed clinical professional counselors and therapists by allowing them to use certain instruments without first completing training equivalent to that of a licensed psychologist qualified to administer the same type of instruments.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: “Appraisal” means: ● selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting instruments designed to assess an individual’s aptitudes, attitudes, abilities, achievements, interests, and personal characteristics; and ● using nonstandardized methods and techniques for understanding human behavior in relation to coping with, adapting to, or changing life situations.

This does not include instruments that require specialized psychological training for administration and interpretation unless the licensed or certified professional counselor has completed training deemed by the Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the State

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to be equivalent to that of a licensed psychologist who is qualified to administer the same types of instruments.

Currently, appraisals may be conducted during the practice of clinical alcohol and drug counseling, clinical marriage and family therapy, and clinical professional counseling as long as the individual conducting the appraisal meets the statutory requirements to do so.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1378 of 2006 would have redefined “appraisal” in a different manner had a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 1098 (Delegate Hubbard) – Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 19, 2007
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