

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 358 (Delegate Donoghue)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Certified Social Workers-Clinical - Practice - Definition

This bill expands the scope of practice for an individual licensed as a certified social worker-clinical to allow the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of mental and emotional conditions and impairments.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful for individuals licensed as a social worker-clinical who wish to provide these services.

Analysis

Current Law: “Practice social work” means to apply the theories, knowledge, procedures, methods, or ethics derived from a formal education program in social work to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or communities through several means, including assessment, formulating diagnostic impressions, planning, intervention and the evaluation of intervention plans, and case management.

For an individual licensed as a certified social worker-clinical, “practice social work” also includes the supervision of other social workers; the evaluation, diagnosis, and

treatment of psychosocial conditions and mental disorders; and the provision of psychotherapy.

Background: There are 7,219 active licensed social workers who are certified as clinical social workers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 723 (Senator Conway, *et al.*) – Rules.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2007
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