

# HOUSE BILL 220

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By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Professional Counselors and Therapists – Definition of Appraisal**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “appraisal” under the laws regulating  
4 professional counselors and therapists as that term relates to the practice of  
5 clinical alcohol and drug counseling, clinical marriage and family therapy, and  
6 clinical professional counseling; and generally relating to professional  
7 counselors and therapists.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Health Occupations  
10 Section 17–101(c)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Health Occupations**

16 17–101.

17 (c) (1) “Appraisal” means:

18 (i) Selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting  
19 instruments designed to assess an individual’s aptitudes, attitudes, abilities,  
20 achievements, interests, and personal characteristics; and

21 (ii) Using nonstandardized methods and techniques for  
22 understanding human behavior in relation to coping with, adapting to, or changing life  
23 situations.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2) “Appraisal” does not include instruments which require specialized  
2 psychological training for administration and interpretation unless the licensed [or  
3 certified professional counselor] **COUNSELOR OR THERAPIST** has completed training  
4 [deemed by the Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the State Board of  
5 Professional Counselors and Therapists to be equivalent to that of a licensed  
6 psychologist who is qualified to administer the same types of instruments.] **THAT**  
7 **INCLUDES:**

8                   **(I) POSSESSION OF A DOCTORAL OR MASTER’S DEGREE IN**  
9 **A COUNSELING OR RELATED FIELD AND A MINIMUM OF 9 GRADUATE COURSES,**  
10 **AS VERIFIED TO THE BOARD ON THE FORM THAT THE BOARD REQUIRES, OF AT**  
11 **LEAST 3 SEMESTER HOURS IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

- 12                   **1. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY;**
- 13                   **2. BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR;**
- 14                   **3. RESEARCH METHODS;**
- 15                   **4. ADVANCED STATISTICS;**
- 16                   **5. TESTS AND MEASURES;**
- 17                   **6. INTELLECTUAL ASSESSMENT;**
- 18                   **7. PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT;**
- 19                   **8. ETHICS; AND**
- 20                   **9. PRACTICUM IN ADVANCED ASSESSMENT; AND**

21                   **(II) UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL HAS EARNED A DOCTORAL**  
22 **DEGREE IN AN AREA OF MENTAL HEALTH THAT INCLUDES THE COURSES IN**  
23 **ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:**

24                   **1. COMPLETION OF 500 HOURS OF FACE-TO-FACE,**  
25 **CLIENT-RELATED, ADVANCED ASSESSMENT TESTING CONTACT TO BE**  
26 **COMPLETED IN NOT LESS THAN 2 YEARS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE**  
27 **MASTER’S DEGREE, OF WHICH A MINIMUM OF 100 HOURS SHALL INCLUDE**  
28 **FACE-TO-FACE SUPERVISION OF ADVANCED ASSESSMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES**  
29 **BY A SUPERVISOR, A LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, OR A**  
30 **PROFICIENT IN THE USE OF ADVANCED ASSESSMENT TESTS, AND APPROVED BY**  
31 **THE BOARD; AND**

1                                   **2. PASSAGE OF A NATIONAL EXAMINATION THAT**  
2 **INCLUDES ITEMS ON ADVANCED ASSESSMENT THAT EVALUATES KNOWLEDGE OF**  
3 **ADVANCED ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES.**

4                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
5 October 1, 2008.