

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 494

(Delegate Hubbard)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Licensed Counselors and Therapists - Appraisal Activities - Training
Requirements

This bill alters the definition of “appraisal” under the laws regulating professional counselors and therapists as the term relates to psychological testing.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The definition of appraisal is altered so that it does not include instruments requiring specialized psychological training for administration or interpretation *unless* the licensed counselor or therapist has completed specified training. A licensee must have a doctoral or master’s degree in counseling or a related field that includes study in nine specific subject areas and • have completed 500 hours of supervised, direct, client-related, advanced assessment testing contact, of which at least 100 hours includes face-to-face supervision; and • have passed a national examination that includes items designed to evaluate advanced assessment procedure knowledge.

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.

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.

Background: The board regulated an estimated 4,528 counselors and therapists in 2007. Of these, 2,475 are licensed clinical counselors and could be eligible to conduct appraisals under the bill. Currently, only licensed psychologists can conduct certain types of psychological testing due to statutory limitations.

Chapters 131 and 132 of 1998 required the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists and the Board of Examiners of Psychologists work together to develop psychological testing regulations so that individuals who meet the regulatory requirements and are licensed by the Professional Counselors Board could also administer tests. To date, the boards have not reached an agreement or developed the regulations.

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 11, 2008
mll/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 20, 2008

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