

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1009 (Delegate Hubbard)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Alcohol and Drug
Counselor Trainees - Registry and Code of Ethics Requirements**

This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to maintain a registry of individuals working as trainees and adopt a code of ethics for trainees working under the supervision of approved alcohol and drug counselor supervisors.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill generally codifies current practice; therefore, the bill's requirements can be handled within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual may practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling without a license for a limited period of time, as determined by the board, if the individual is working as a trainee under the supervision of an approved alcohol and drug supervisor while fulfilling experiential or course of study requirements. An approved alcohol and drug supervisor must be a certified professional counselor-alcohol and drug, a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor, or a health care provider licensed or certified under the Health Occupations Article with documented expertise in alcohol and drug counseling, as approved by the board. Working as a trainee under an approved supervisor must include direct, on-site, face-to-face, individual or group meetings focused on quality of delivery of alcohol and drug counseling services and improvement

of counseling skills for a minimum of 1 documented hour for each 40-hour workweek but not less than 2 documented hours per month for less than a 40-hour workweek.

The board is required to maintain a registry of all counselors or therapists currently licensed or certified by the board and adopt a code of ethics that the board considers appropriate and applicable to the counselors or therapists currently certified or licensed by the board.

Background: The State Board for Professional Counselors and Therapists regulates the practice of counseling in Maryland by licensing and certifying qualified professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and alcohol and drug counselors. According to the board, individuals are typically granted the authority to practice as a trainee for up to five years. The board currently keeps track of trainees and holds them to the board's existing code of ethics. Currently, 551 individuals holding the certified associate counselor-alcohol and drug credential are approved by the board to serve as approved alcohol and drug counselor supervisors to approximately 1,058 trainees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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