

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

**First Reader**

House Bill 902

(Delegate Ivey)

Health and Government Operations

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**State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Out-of-State Licensing  
Reciprocity - Study**

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This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to study and make recommendations on updating State law granting reciprocity for clinical marriage and family therapists licensed in the District of Columbia and Virginia to practice in Maryland. By December 1, 2022, the board must report its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The board can likely complete the required study and report within existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The board must (1) review the laws and regulations in the State that authorize clinical marriage and family therapists licensed in the District of Columbia and Virginia to practice in the State and (2) determine the feasibility of establishing an agreement between Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia for granting reciprocity for clinical marriage and family therapists licensed in one of the three jurisdictions to practice in another of the three jurisdictions that will maintain existing

licensing requirements in the State, authorize clinical marriage and family therapists licensed in specified jurisdictions to apply for licensure without unnecessary barriers, and establish substantively similar requirements for licensure as a clinical marriage and family therapy license in the specified jurisdictions.

**Current Law:** In general, an individual must be licensed by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists before practicing clinical marriage and family therapy. “Practice clinical marriage and family therapy” means to engage professionally and for compensation in marriage and family therapy and appraisal activities by providing services involving the application of therapy principles and methods in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of psychological problems and emotional or mental conditions of individuals or groups.

To qualify for a license to practice clinical marriage and family therapy, an applicant must be of good moral character, at least age 18, submit documentation of completing specified educational requirements, submit documentation of completing at least two years of supervised clinical experience, and pass an approved examination.

To be licensed in Maryland, an individual currently licensed as a clinical marriage and family therapist in jurisdiction outside of Maryland must submit verification of licensure and proof of completion of equivalent education and experience requirements, submit to a criminal history records check, and pass both the Examination in Marital and Family Therapy and the Maryland Law Assessment.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2022  
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