

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1474 (Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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**Licensed Professional Counselors - Telehealth - Students Enrolled in Institutions  
of Higher Education**

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This bill authorizes an “out-of-state licensed professional counselor” to provide clinical professional counseling services through telehealth to an out-of-state student attending an institution of higher education in the State. The student and the counselor must have a previously established therapeutic relationship, and the clinical professional counseling services may not be provided for more than five days per month or 15 days per year. This authorization does not apply to a student who establishes residency in the State or is enrolled in a health insurance benefit plan in the State that restricts coverage to in-State health care providers. The bill is subject to termination if the Counseling Compact Commission begins issuing compact privileges to licensed professional counselors in member states to practice counseling in remote states. The State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists must notify the Department of Legislative Services within five days of receiving notice from the commission that they are issuing compact privileges.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any additional workload on the board can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Out-of-state licensed professional counselor” means a licensed professional counselor who is not licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to practice clinical professional counseling in the State, but is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide clinical professional counseling or counseling services in another state.

**Current Law:** Generally, an individual must be licensed by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to practice professional counseling in Maryland. An applicant for a professional counseling license must have (1) a master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited educational program approved by the board; (2) completed instruction in specified study areas; (3) completed a specified amount of supervised clinical experience; (4) passed the National Counselors Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors and the Maryland Law Assessment; and (5) submit to a criminal history records check. The board may not issue a license if the criminal history record information has not been received.

### *Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact*

Chapters 134 and 135 of 2021 entered Maryland into the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact. The purpose of the compact is to increase public access to professional counseling services and provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements. A member state must grant the privilege to practice to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules. A member state must recognize the right of a licensed professional counselor with a privilege to practice professional counseling in any member state through telehealth.

As of February 2025, 38 states (including Maryland) have passed the compact language. According to the Counseling Compact Commission, compact privileges are expected to open in late summer or early fall 2025.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2025  
caw/jc

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Analysis by: Eliana R. Prober

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510