

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 1474

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

**State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists - Temporary Telehealth
Licenses - Establishment**

This bill creates a temporary telehealth license to be issued by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to qualified applicants authorized to provide clinical professional counseling or counseling services in another State. The license authorizes the holder to provide clinical professional counseling services through telehealth in Maryland only to an out-of-state resident enrolled at and residing at or near an institution of higher education in the State. The student and the counselor must have a previously established therapeutic relationship that has existed for at least six months. The license has a term of six months and may not be renewed. If the holder of a temporary telehealth license commits a violation of Title 17 of the Health Occupations Article, the board may not issue the individual a regular Maryland license for at least two years from the date the violation occurred. The board must adopt specified regulations related to the license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional workload on the board can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Any impact on board revenues from application fees for the temporary license is assumed to be minimal.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: To board may issue a temporary telehealth license to an individual who (1) is not authorized to practice clinical professional counseling in Maryland; (2) is authorized to provide clinical professional counseling or counseling services in another state; (3) is in good standing with the regulatory authority in the other state; (4) meets any other qualifications set by the board in regulations; and (5) submits a temporary telehealth application.

The board must adopt regulations to establish qualifications, application fees, conditions, and/or limitations applicable to a temporary telehealth licensee, and any other regulations necessary for implementation, administration, and enforcement of the bill.

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 April 2025, 38 states (including Maryland) have passed the compact language. According to the Counseling Compact Commission, the commission hopes to begin taking applications for compact privileges in 2025.

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

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