

Chapter 242

(House Bill 1483)

AN ACT concerning

**Clinical Professional Counseling ~~and Social Work~~ – Out-of-State Providers –
Use of Telehealth for Continuity of Care**

FOR the purpose of repealing the authority of the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to issue a temporary telehealth license; exempting certain State licensure requirements for certain individuals who are licensed in another state and who provide counseling ~~or social work~~ through telehealth to clients in the State; and generally relating to clinical professional counseling ~~or social work~~ and telehealth.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 17–101(a) ~~and 19–301(a), (c), and (d)~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 17–101(l) ~~and 17–301, 17–301, and 19–301(b)~~ *and 17–301*

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – Health Occupations

Section 17–101(cc) and 17–304.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

17–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(l) [(1)] “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued by the Board authorizing an individual to practice:

[i] (1) Clinical alcohol and drug counseling;

- [(ii)] (2)** Clinical marriage and family therapy;
- [(iii)] (3)** Clinical professional art therapy;
- [(iv)] (4)** Clinical professional counseling;
- [(v)] (5)** Graduate alcohol and drug counseling;
- [(vi)] (6)** Graduate marriage and family therapy;
- [(vii)] (7)** Graduate professional art therapy; or
- [(viii)] (8)** Graduate professional counseling.

[(2) “License” includes, unless the context requires otherwise, a temporary telehealth license.]

[(cc) “Temporary telehealth license” means a license issued by the Board under § 17–304.2 of this title.]

17–301.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling, clinical marriage and family therapy, clinical professional art therapy, or clinical professional counseling in the State unless licensed by the Board.

(b) Subject to the regulations of the Board, subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

(1) A student working under the supervision of a licensed mental health care provider while pursuing a supervised course of study in counseling that the Board approves as qualifying training and experience under this title; **[or]**

(2) An individual who, in accordance with § 17–406 of this title, is working as a trainee under the supervision of a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or another health care provider licensed or certified under this article and approved by the Board while fulfilling the experiential or course of study requirements under § 17–302 of this subtitle or § 17–403 or § 17–404 of this title; **OR**

(3) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(I) IS LICENSED AND IN GOOD STANDING IN ANOTHER STATE;

(II) ESTABLISHED A CLIENT–COUNSELOR RELATIONSHIP WITH A CLIENT OUTSIDE THE STATE;

(III) IS NO LONGER ABLE TO PROVIDE IN–PERSON COUNSELING TO THE CLIENT BECAUSE THE CLIENT IS LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND

(IV) PROVIDES THE COUNSELING THROUGH TELEHEALTH, AS DEFINED IN ~~§ 10–1001~~ § 1–1001 OF THIS ARTICLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONTINUITY OF CARE TO THE CLIENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER:

1. THE CLIENT RELOCATED TO THE STATE; OR

2. THE CLIENT RETURNED TO THE STATE FOLLOWING A CONTINUOUS AND NONINCIDENTAL PERIOD OF RELOCATION OUTSIDE THE STATE.

(c) This subtitle may not be construed to limit the scope of practice of any individual who is duly licensed under this article.

[17–304.2.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Institution of higher education” has the meaning stated in § 10–101 of the Education Article.

(3) “Student” means an out–of–state resident enrolled at and residing at or near an institution of higher education in the State.

(b) The Board may issue a temporary telehealth license to an applicant who:

(1) Is not licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to practice clinical professional counseling in the State under this article;

(2) Is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law 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 license application.

(c) A temporary telehealth license issued under this section authorizes the holder to provide clinical professional counseling services through telehealth in the State only to a student attending an institution of higher education in the State if the student and the

out-of-state licensed professional counselor have a previously established therapeutic relationship that has existed for at least 6 months.

(d) The term of a temporary telehealth license issued under this section is 6 months.

(e) A temporary telehealth license issued under this section may not be renewed.

(f) If the holder of a temporary telehealth license violates this title, the Board may not issue the individual a regular license under this title for at least 2 years after the date on which the violation occurred.

(g) The Board shall adopt regulations:

(1) To establish qualifications and application fees for a temporary telehealth license issued under this section;

(2) To establish any conditions or limitations applicable to a temporary telehealth licensee; and

(3) Necessary for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of this section.]

~~19-301.~~

~~(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual shall be:~~

~~(1) Licensed by the Board before the individual may practice social work in this State while representing oneself as a social worker; or~~

~~(2) Licensed as a certified social worker-clinical before the individual may practice clinical social work in this State.~~

~~(b) This section does not apply to:~~

~~(1) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, an individual employed by any agency of the federal government while performing the duties of that employment;~~

~~(2) An individual licensed as a social worker in another state while responding to an emergency in this State;~~

~~(3) An individual who:~~

~~(i) Is licensed to practice social work in any other state;~~

~~(ii) Has an application for a license pending before the Board; and~~

~~(iii) Meets requirements established by the Board in regulations; for~~

~~(4) A student while pursuing a supervised course of study in a social work program that is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education; OR~~

~~(5) A SOCIAL WORKER WHO IS LICENSED AND IN GOOD STANDING IN ANOTHER STATE OR A STUDENT WHILE PURSUING A SUPERVISED COURSE OF STUDY IN A GRADUATE LEVEL SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM IN ANOTHER STATE THAT IS ACCREDITED OR IS A CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION BY THE COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND WHO:~~

~~(i) ESTABLISHED A CLIENT SOCIAL WORKER RELATIONSHIP WITH A CLIENT OUTSIDE THE STATE;~~

~~(ii) IS NO LONGER ABLE TO PROVIDE IN-PERSON SOCIAL WORK SERVICES TO THE CLIENT BECAUSE THE CLIENT IS LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND~~

~~(iii) PROVIDES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH, AS DEFINED IN § 1-1001 OF THIS ARTICLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONTINUITY OF CARE TO THE CLIENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER:~~

~~1. THE CLIENT RELOCATED TO THE STATE; OR~~

~~2. THE CLIENT RETURNED TO THE STATE FOLLOWING A CONTINUOUS AND NONINCIDENTAL PERIOD OF RELOCATION OUTSIDE THE STATE.~~

~~(c) An individual may not practice social work without a license under subsection (b)(3) of this section for more than 6 months.~~

~~(d) An individual employed by an agency of the federal government who is licensed to practice social work in the State shall comply with the provisions of this title.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.