

HOUSE BILL 1325

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6lr1579
CF SB 522

By: **Delegates McComas, Baker, Beauchamp, Buckel, Ciliberti, Hornberger, Miller, Nkongolo, and Spiegel**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workers' Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairments – Licensed**
3 **Social Worker–Clinical**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a licensed certified social worker–clinical to provide
5 evaluation services for workers' compensation claims related to permanent
6 impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder; requiring a licensed certified
7 social worker–clinical to meet certain requirements to perform the evaluation
8 services; and generally relating to the evaluation of permanent impairments by
9 licensed certified social workers–clinical under the workers' compensation law.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Labor and Employment
12 Section 9–721(c)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2025 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Labor and Employment
17 Section 9–721(d)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **Article – Labor and Employment**

2 9–721.

3 (c) **[If] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, IF** a permanent
4 impairment involves a behavioral or mental disorder, a licensed psychologist, **LICENSED**
5 **CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER–CLINICAL**, or qualified physician shall:

6 (1) perform an evaluation of only the mental or behavioral portion of the
7 permanent impairment; and

8 (2) report the evaluation to the Commission in accordance with the
9 regulations of the Commission.

10 **(D) TO PERFORM AND REPORT AN EVALUATION UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF**
11 **THIS SECTION, A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER–CLINICAL MUST:**

12 **(1) MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION, DIAGNOSIS, AND**
13 **TREATMENT OF:**

14 **(I) BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL CONDITIONS;**

15 **(II) MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS AND IMPAIRMENTS;**

16 **AND**

17 **(III) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS INCLUDING**
18 **SUBSTANCE–RELATED DISORDERS, ADDICTIVE DISORDERS, AND MENTAL**
19 **DISORDERS, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN § 7.5–101 OF**
20 **THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;**

21 **(2) MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION FOR A**
22 **REHABILITATION COUNSELOR OR A VOCATIONAL EVALUATOR ESTABLISHED UNDER**
23 **§ 9–6A–09 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

24 **(3) HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN ITEMS (1) AND (2)**
25 **OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR A MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS FOLLOWING THE INITIAL**
26 **ISSUANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S LICENSE; AND**

27 **(4) BE AN AUTHORIZED PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN COMAR**
28 **14.09.08.01.**

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