

HOUSE BILL 1483

J2, J1

6lr2176

By: **Delegates Kaiser, Guyton, and Kaufman**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Clinical Professional Counseling – Out-of-State Providers – Use of Telehealth**
3 **for Continuity of Care**

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

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Health Occupations
11 Section 17–101(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health Occupations
16 Section 17–101(l) and 17–301
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing
20 Article – Health Occupations
21 Section 17–101(cc) and 17–304.2
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Health Occupations**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 17-101.

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

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

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

6 [(ii)] (2) Clinical marriage and family therapy;

7 [(iii)] (3) Clinical professional art therapy;

8 [(iv)] (4) Clinical professional counseling;

9 [(v)] (5) Graduate alcohol and drug counseling;

10 [(vi)] (6) Graduate marriage and family therapy;

11 [(vii)] (7) Graduate professional art therapy; or

12 [(viii)] (8) Graduate professional counseling.

13 [(2)] "License" includes, unless the context requires otherwise, a temporary
14 telehealth license.]

15 [(cc)] "Temporary telehealth license" means a license issued by the Board
16 under § 17-304.2 of this title.]

17 17-301.

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

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

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

27 (2) An individual who, in accordance with § 17-406 of this title, is working
28 as a trainee under the supervision of a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or

1 another health care provider licensed or certified under this article and approved by the
2 Board while fulfilling the experiential or course of study requirements under § 17–302 of
3 this subtitle or § 17–403 or § 17–404 of this title; OR

4 **(3) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

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

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

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

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

13 **1. THE CLIENT RELOCATED TO THE STATE; OR**

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

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

18 [17–304.2.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (2) Is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide clinical
28 professional counseling or counseling services in another state;

29 (3) Is in good standing with the regulatory authority in the other state;

1 (4) Meets any other qualifications set by the Board in regulations; and

2 (5) Submits a temporary telehealth license application.

3 (c) A temporary telehealth license issued under this section authorizes the holder
4 to provide clinical professional counseling services through telehealth in the State only to
5 a student attending an institution of higher education in the State if the student and the
6 out-of-state licensed professional counselor have a previously established therapeutic
7 relationship that has existed for at least 6 months.

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

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

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

14 (g) The Board shall adopt regulations:

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

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

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

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