

SENATE BILL 522

K1

6lr2402
CF 6lr1579

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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:

22 **Article – Labor and Employment**

23 9–721.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

(I) BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL CONDITIONS;

(II) MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS AND IMPAIRMENTS;

AND

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

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

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

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

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