



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

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2021 Session POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 646

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Alcohol and Drug Counseling – Alcohol and Drug Trainees – Practice through Telehealth

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill authorizes Alcohol and Drug Trainees to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling without a license or certification through telehealth if the individuals are working as trainees under the supervision of certain approved supervisors while completing certain experiential or course study requirements.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) supports SB 646. The Board recognizes the need for continuity of care and accessibility to services for the public. The bill generates flexibility to meet the needs of clients and increase appointment attendance. Additionally, it increases the retention rates for substance use disorder treatment programs.

For this reason, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists requests a favorable report on SB 646. For more information, please contact the Board’s Acting Executive Director, Danielle Vallone at 410-764-4734 or Danielle.Vallone@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.