



## 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: HB 736**

**COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations**

**POSITION: Support**

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**TITLE:** Interstate License Professional Counselors Compact

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill allows licensed professional counselors to enter an interstate compact and practice in the participating compact states; it requires each participating state to meet certain requirements; it authorizes a participating state to charge a certain fee to grant a certain privilege; requires certain professional counselors to meet certain eligibility requirements to receive certain licensure and exercise a certain privilege; etc.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) supports HB 736. The Board recognizes the importance of having an interstate compact for professional counselors. The bill enables licensed professional counselors, who hold a valid license and are in good standing, to be granted a privilege to practice in the participating compact states. This bill allows for greater access to mental health care services by allowing practitioners to practice in participating compact states.

For this reason, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists requests a favorable report on HB 736. For more information, please contact the Board’s Acting Executive Director, Danielle Vallone at 410-764-4734 or [Danielle.Vallone@maryland.gov](mailto: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.*