



Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 42

Title: Public Safety – Police Officers – Screening for Violent Behavior, Aggressive Behavior, and Bias

Hearing Date: January 21, 2021

Position: Letter of Information

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) is writing this letter of information for *Senate Bill 42 – Public Safety – Policy Officers – Screening for Violent Behavior, Aggressive Behavior, and Bias*. This bill would prohibit law enforcement agencies from employing an individual as a police officer unless the person satisfactorily completes a psychological screening.

Licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs) are graduate level professionals licensed in Maryland by the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to provide a range of clinical mental health diagnostic and treatment services, including psychological evaluations.

In 2018, LCPCM supported HB 190, expanding the list of mental health practitioners who could provide psychological screening and evaluations to law enforcement officers. Prior to this, only licensed psychologists could perform employment-based psychological evaluations to law enforcement officers. It was stated at the time that the limitation of one provider type made it difficult to find enough licensed mental health professionals to provide the needed evaluations, thus necessitating the 2018 legislation.

Following this, LCPCM worked with the Maryland Policy Training and Standards Commission as regulations were developed to ensure that Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPCs) would be included in the definition of “mental health professional”. LCPCM is very concerned that the passage of SB 42 would eliminate our progress in ensuring that there are enough mental health professionals to provide employment-based psychological screenings and evaluations for law enforcement agencies as the bill limits the administration of screenings to licensed psychologists and psychiatrists.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.