



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 982

Title: Health Occupations - Faith-Based Counseling - Exemption

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Position: Letter of Informaiton

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) has questions on *House Bill 982 – Health Occupations - Faith-Based Counseling - Exemption*.

Our understanding of the current law is that the work of clergy and other religious counseling was exempted from a requirement to be licensed, as long as the individual was not providing services of a licensed profession. As currently written, this bill seems to be allowing a religious counselor to provide the services of an alcohol and drug counselor, clinical marriage and family therapist, clinical professional art therapist, or licensed clinical professional counselor. We have questions about how the provisions of this bill are supposed to interact with current licensing laws.

We would appreciate the opportunity to participate in any work sessions that occur for this bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.