



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 458 – Health Occupations – Structural Racism Training

Hearing Date: February 11, 2025

Position: Support With Amendments

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support SB 458 – Health Occupations – Structural Racism Training with amendments. This bill will require the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program to incorporate a structural racism training program; and requires applicants for the renewal of a license or certificate issued by a health occupations board to attest to completing an implicit bias and structural racism training program for the first license or certificate or renewal issued after April 1, 2026.

Legislation passed during the 2021 Session (HB 28, CH. 744, Acts of 2021) required all health practitioners to complete implicit bias training as a condition of renewal. SB 458 incorporates a new program for licensure, structural racism training. LCPCM believes that to adequately treat patients, providers need to understand the challenges they face in their personal and professional lives. This training will provide a better understanding of the historical practices and policies that have affected marginalized and disadvantaged communities leading to providing better treatment services.

LCPCM supports additional training requirements to address health equity issues, but requests that as a new requirement for continued licensure, continuing education credit and a certificate for completing the program be provided to all health practitioners completing the program. LCPCM suggests adding this language to §1-225 of the Health Occupations Article.

For these reasons, LCPCM urges the Committee to give SB 458 a FAVORABLE Report with AMENDMENTS to provide for continuing education credit and a certification of completion.

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at amansfield@maniscanning.com or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.