



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: HB 1474 – Licensed Professional Counselors – Telehealth – Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education

Hearing Date: March 11, 2025

Position: Support With Amendments

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support HB 1474 – Licensed Professional Counselors – Telehealth – Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education with amendments. This bill is authorizing an out-of-state licensed professional counselor to provide clinical professional counseling services to students enrolled in higher education in Maryland within certain parameters.

Continuity of care is a critical part of professional counseling. If a student is away at college or a client is in crisis out of state, it is critical that the individual receive the care necessary. Currently, it is against the law in many nearby states to provide this short- term care. LCPCM has had conversations with the Counseling Compact Commission and is working diligently with other jurisdictions (VA, DEL, PA, NC, etc.) to resolve the issue of continuity of care that places students and clients in harm’s way.

LCPCM appreciates HB 1474 as introduced but would like to propose an alternative approach to address this issue more broadly. The language being proposed mirrors the state of Virginia and would allow an out-of-state licensed clinical professional counselor who is in good standing in another state with a previously established therapeutic relationship to provide clinical professional counseling services for no more than one year from the date on which the licensed counselor began providing such services to such client. These amendments would strike the existing bill and insert the language provided on the next page.

For these reasons, LCPCM urges the Committee to give HB 1474 a FAVORABLE Report with AMENDMENTS to provide for essential continuity of care.

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

Amendments To HB 1474
(First Reading File Bill)

BY repealing and reenacting with amendments

Article – Health Occupations
Section 17-301
Health Occupations Article
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

17-301.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling, clinical marriage and family therapy, clinical professional art therapy, or clinical professional counseling in the State unless licensed by the Board.

(b) Subject to the regulations of the Board, subsection (a) of this section does not apply to:

(1) A student working under the supervision of a licensed mental health care provider while pursuing a supervised course of study in counseling that the Board approves as qualifying training and experience under this title; or

(2) An individual who, in accordance with Section 17-406 of this title, is working as a trainee under the supervision of a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or another health care provider licensed or certified under this article and approved by the Board while fulfilling the experiential or course of study requirements under Section 17-302 of this subtitle or Section 17-403 or Section 17-404 of this title; or

(3) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED IN ANOTHER STATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR A UNITED STATES TERRITORY OR POSSESSION AND WHO IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE APPLICABLE REGULATORY AGENCY IN THAT STATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR THAT UNITED STATES TERRITORY OR POSSESSION WHO PROVIDES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AS DEFINED UNDER THIS TITLE, TO A CLIENT LOCATED IN THE STATE WHEN:

(I) SUCH PRACTICE IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONTINUITY OF CARE THROUGH THE USE OF TELEHEALTH OR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES AS DEFINED UNDER THIS TITLE; AND,

(II) THE LICENSED COUNSELOR HAS PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED A CLIENT-COUNSELOR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CLIENT.

(C) THE LICENSED COUNSELOR WHO PROVIDES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO A CLIENT LOCATED IN THE STATE THROUGH USE OF TELEHEALTH OR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION MAY PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF NO MORE THAN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE LICENSED COUNSELOR BEGAN PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES TO SUCH CLIENT.

(D) ~~(e)~~ This subtitle may not be construed to limit the scope of practice of any individual who is duly licensed under this article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.