



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue, #5
Baltimore, MD 21215

2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 256
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill, when enacted, extends the termination of the statutory and regulatory authority of several Health Occupation Boards, including the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, until July 1, 2031. The bill also increases the number of board member positions of the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners from seven to nine.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) supports HB 256.

Health Occupation boards are mandated by the General Assembly to protect the public health, well-being, and safety of the citizens of Maryland. A favorable vote to extend the termination date ensures that the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists continues to fulfill its mission and mandated responsibilities to credential, license, and certify qualified and competent counselors and therapists; investigate complaints; and discipline licensed and certified counselors and therapists found to have violated the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act.

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists respectfully requests a favorable vote on HB 256.

For more information, please contact the Board’s Legislation/Regulations Committee Chair, Karen Katrinic at karen.katrinic@maryland.gov or call 410-533-1991; or the Board’s Legislative Liaison, Lillian Reese at lillian.reese@maryland.gov or call 443-794-4757.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.