



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: HB 1483 – Clinical Professional Counseling – Out-of-State Providers – Use of Telehealth for Continuity of Care

Hearing Date: March 31, 2026

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support HB 1483 – Clinical Professional Counseling – Out-of-State Providers – Use of Telehealth for Continuity of Care. This bill addresses continuity of care as it relates to an out-of-state fully licensed mental health provider, in good standing, with an established therapist-client relationship to provide temporary care to the client when they are physically located outside their home state.

Continuity of care is a critical part of professional counseling. When an individual needs to relocate for a period time out of state, it is critical that the individual receive the care necessary if the individual is experiencing a crisis. Abrupt termination of care increases the likelihood of decompensation, emergency department visits, and hospitalization and/or death. Relationships with counselors are developed over time making it extremely difficult to transfer mental health treatment on short notice. Providing continuity of care is essential for a patient's well-being. LCPCM believes this will create goodwill with other states and ensure patients receive appropriate care during moments of vulnerability.

HB 1483 will also preserve access while maintaining regulatory oversight. It will not weaken licensure standards or reduce oversight. If the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists receive a complaint, it will be referred to the therapist's home state for disciplinary action. If the discipline is upheld, the therapist will no longer be in good standing and will not be able to practice.

HB 1483 mirrors Virginia law. To date, Virginia's Board of Counseling, Psychology and Social Work has had NO adverse findings. Washington, D.C. and Virginia also have similar laws in place. Understanding concerns may be raised with regulatory oversight, LCPCM suggests placing a reasonable sunset on the bill. Should disciplinary matters occur during that timeframe, LCPCM will work with the Board on an appropriate solution.

LCPCM believes this is a commonsense measure to assist individuals in crisis on a temporary basis. By positioning Maryland as a cooperative regional partner, it ensures that oversight follows the license, the counselor, and the client, rather than stopping at an arbitrary state line.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give HB 1483 a FAVORABLE report. Please contact Andrea Mansfield at amansfield@maniscanning.com or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.