



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

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

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 1094
COMMITTEE: Health
POSITION: Support with Amendments

TITLE: Health Insurance – Graduate-Level Clinical Interns – Required Reimbursement

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 1094 establishes that insureds and covered persons under certain health insurance policies are entitled to reimbursement for services rendered by a graduate-level counseling, social work, or psychology clinical intern under specified circumstances. The bill requires that services be provided in an outpatient health care setting, under direct supervision, and billed by the supervising licensed professional.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) supports HB 1094 with amendments.

The Board recognizes the importance of expanding access to behavioral health services and acknowledges the role that graduate-level clinical interns play in delivering supervised care within outpatient settings. Reimbursement for services rendered under appropriate supervision may enhance workforce development and improve patient access to care.

However, the Board recommends an amendment to clarify that the bill applies to graduate-level clinical interns across each discipline regulated under Title 17 of the Health Occupations Article. These disciplines include professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, alcohol and drug counseling, and professional art therapy. This clarification would ensure consistency in application and avoid unintended exclusion of interns in disciplines overseen by the Board; while maintaining flexibility should additional disciplines fall under the Board’s jurisdiction in the future.

The Board’s recommendation is intended to promote equitable treatment of interns across regulated professions, maintain clarity in implementation, and support continuity of care while preserving appropriate supervisory safeguards.

The Board stands ready to work with stakeholders to ensure the bill is implemented in a manner that supports patient safety, professional supervision standards, and workforce development.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony. The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists respectfully requests a favorable vote on HB 1094 with amendments.

If you require additional information please contact Tomiloba Olaniyi Quadri, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists at (410) 764-4732 or tomiloba.olaniyi-quadri@maryland.gov; or Lillian Reese, Board Legislative Liaison, at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

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