

HB 1483 – Bill Overview and Justification

HB 1483 establishes a **targeted, time-limited continuity of care exception** allowing out-of-state *licensed professional counselors* to continue treating existing clients via telehealth when those clients are temporarily located in Maryland.

The bill is a **measured and patient-centered approach** that:

- Prevents disruption of care
- Maintains clinical stability
- Aligns Maryland with modern interstate practice standard

Similar concepts exist in:

- Washington, DC - Except as otherwise provided....no license, registration or certification
- Virginia (no license required - most modern framework)
- Delaware (limited incidental practice provisions; no license required)
- West Virginia (temporary practice/exemptions; no license required)
- **Maryland is currently behind regional norms in this area.**

Out-of-state fully licensed counselors that meet specific criteria,

- To provide telehealth services only for continuity of care
- To only existing clients (no new Maryland clients)
- For a limited duration (modeled after Virginia)

HB 1483 positions Maryland as a state that supports workforce flexibility, interstate mobility and provides for continuity of care standards to support clients that *might be in crisis*.

HB 1483 ensures: *Care follows the client, not state borders*

This is **not** an expansion of practice, it is a ***protection of continuity of care***.