

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1474

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Licensed Professional Counselors - Telehealth - Students Enrolled in Institutions
of Higher Education

This bill authorizes an “out-of-state licensed professional counselor” to provide clinical professional counseling services through telehealth to an out-of-state student attending an institution of higher education in the State. The student and the counselor must have a previously established therapeutic relationship that has existed for at least six months, and the counselor must provide the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists with specified information. This authorization does not apply to a student who establishes residency in the State or is enrolled in a health insurance benefit plan in the State that restricts coverage to in-State health care providers. **The bill terminates on September 30, 2028.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional workload on the board can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Out-of-state licensed professional counselor” means a licensed professional counselor who is not licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to practice clinical professional counseling in the State, but is (1) licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide clinical professional counseling or counseling

services in another state and (2) is in good standing with the regulatory authority in the other state.

The out-of-state licensed professional counselor must (1) notify the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists that they will be providing clinical professional counseling services through telehealth to a student attending an institution of higher education in the State and (2) provide the board with their contact and licensing information. If the licensing or contact information changes, the counselor must notify the board within 15 days after the change occurs.

Current Law: Generally, an individual must be licensed by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to practice professional counseling in Maryland. An applicant for a professional counseling license must have (1) a master's or doctoral degree from an accredited educational program approved by the board; (2) completed instruction in specified study areas; (3) completed a specified amount of supervised clinical experience; (4) passed the National Counselors Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors and the Maryland Law Assessment; and (5) submit to a criminal history records check. The board may not issue a license if the criminal history record information has not been received.

Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact

Chapters 134 and 135 of 2021 entered Maryland into the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact. The purpose of the compact is to increase public access to professional counseling services and provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed professional counselors who meet uniform licensure requirements. A member state must grant the privilege to practice to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in another member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules. A member state must recognize the right of a licensed professional counselor with a privilege to practice professional counseling in any member state through telehealth.

As of March 2025, 38 states (including Maryland) have passed the compact language. According to the Counseling Compact Commission, compact privileges are expected to open in late summer or early fall 2025.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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