

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 1483  
 Health

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)

Finance

**Clinical Professional Counseling and Social Work - Out-of-State Providers - Use of Telehealth for Continuity of Care**

This bill exempts specified individuals from licensing requirements under the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Social Work Examiners under certain circumstances. Such individuals may provide counseling or social work services through telehealth to a client in Maryland for the purpose of providing continuity of care for a limited period, as specified. The bill also repeals the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists' authorization to issue a temporary telehealth license.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures for the boards are not materially affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:**

*State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists*

An individual who is (1) licensed and in good standing in another state and (2) established a client-counselor relationship with a client outside the state may provide counseling

through telehealth. Counseling must be for the purpose of providing continuity of care for up to six months after the client (1) relocated to Maryland or (2) returned to Maryland after a continuous and nonincidental period of relocation outside the State. An individual must be unable to provide in-person counseling to the client because the client is located in Maryland.

*State Board of Social Work Examiners*

A social worker who is (1) licensed and in good standing in another state and (2) established a client-social worker relationship with a client outside the state may provide social work services through telehealth. Social work services must be for the purpose of providing continuity of care for up to six months after the client (1) relocated to Maryland or (2) returned to Maryland after a continuous and nonincidental period of relocation outside the State. An individual must be unable to provide in-person social work services to the client because the client is located in Maryland.

These provisions also apply to a student, while pursuing a supervised course of study in a graduate level social work program in another state that is accredited or a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education.

**Current Law:** “Telehealth” means a mode of delivering health care services through the use of telecommunications technologies by a health care practitioner to a patient at a different physical location than the health care practitioner. It includes synchronous and asynchronous interactions, but does not include the provision of health care services solely through audio-only calls, e-mail messages, or facsimile transmissions.

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 (CHRC).

Generally, an individual must be licensed by the State Board of Social Work Examiners to practice social work in Maryland. An applicant must (1) depending on the license sought, have a baccalaureate or master’s degree in social work from an accredited program; (2) be at least 18 years old and of good moral character; (3) depending on the license sought, pass any required examinations; (4) pay any required fees; and (5) complete a CHRC.

### *Temporary Telehealth License*

Chapter 649 of 2025 created a temporary telehealth license. The license is issued by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to qualified applicants authorized to provide clinical professional counseling or counseling services in another state. The license authorizes the holder to provide clinical professional counseling services through telehealth in Maryland only to an out-of-state resident enrolled at and residing at or near 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. The license has a term of six months and may not be renewed.

The board may issue a temporary telehealth license to an individual who (1) is not authorized to practice clinical professional counseling in Maryland; (2) is authorized to provide clinical professional counseling or counseling services in another state; (3) is in good standing with the regulatory authority in the other state; (4) meets any other qualifications set by the board in regulations; and (5) submits a temporary telehealth application.

### *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 February 2026, 39 states (including Maryland) and Washington, D.C. have passed the compact language, though only three states (Arizona, Ohio, and Minnesota) are actively issuing compact privileges.

### *Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact*

Chapters 9 and 10 of 2025 entered Maryland into the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of regulated social workers by improving public access to competent social work services and to preserve the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure. A member state must grant the privilege to practice to a licensee holding or eligible for an active, unencumbered license in a member state in accordance with the terms of the compact and rules. As of March 2026, 30 states (including Maryland) have passed compact language.

## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; American Counseling Association; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2026  
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