

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1483
Health

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)

Clinical Professional Counseling - Out-of-State Providers - Use of Telehealth for
Continuity of Care

This bill repeals the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists' authorization to issue a temporary telehealth license. Instead, the bill exempts certain individuals from licensing requirements under certain circumstances. Specifically, an individual licensed and in good standing in another state may provide counseling through telehealth to a client in Maryland 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. The individual must have an established client-counselor relationship with a client while the client was outside the State and must no longer be able to provide in-person counseling to the client because the client is located in Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Board revenues and expenditures are not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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.

Temporary Telehealth License

Chapter 649 of 2025 created a temporary telehealth license. The license is issued by the board 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.

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

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jg/jc

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