

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 910
Finance

(Senator Mautz)

Health

Health Insurance - Graduate-Level Clinical Interns - Required Reimbursement

This bill requires certain health insurance policies that provide reimbursement for a service within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed graduate professional counselor (LGPC), licensed master social worker (LMSW), or licensed psychologist to reimburse for the service provided by a graduate-level counseling clinical intern, graduate-level social work clinical intern, or graduate-level psychology clinical intern under specified circumstances. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2027, and applies to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after that date.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in special fund revenues for the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) in FY 2027 only from the \$125 rate and form filing fee. Any additional MIA workload can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Services must be reimbursable if they are (1) provided at an outpatient health care facility; (2) provided by a counseling clinical intern, social work clinical intern, or psychology clinical intern who is enrolled in a counseling, social work, or psychology graduate program and providing the services under specified direct supervision; and (3) billed by the appropriate supervisor.

A graduate-level counseling clinical intern must provide services under direct supervision of a “board-approved supervisor” (as defined in State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists regulations) who meets specified qualifications.

A graduate-level social work clinical intern must provide services under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social worker-clinical (LCSW-C).

A graduate-level psychology clinical intern must provide services under the direct supervision of a licensed psychologist.

Current Law:

Reimbursement Parity

Each individual, group, or blanket health insurance policy issued by an insurer or nonprofit health service plan that provides reimbursement for certain services must reimburse specified providers for those services.

If a policy, contract, or certificate provides for reimbursement for a service that is within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC), a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor, or a licensed clinical professional art therapist, the insured or any other person covered by the policy or certificate is entitled to reimbursement for the service.

If a policy or certificate provides for reimbursement for a service that is within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed certified social worker (LCSW), the insured or any other person covered by the policy or certificate is entitled to reimbursement for the service regardless of whether the service is performed by a physician or an LCSW-C.

If a policy, contract, or certificate provides for reimbursement for a service that is within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed psychologist, the insured or any other person covered by the policy, contract, or certificate is entitled to reimbursement for the service regardless of whether the service is performed by a physician or licensed psychologist.

Graduate-level Health Occupations

An LGPC is an individual approved by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to practice “graduate professional counseling,” which is clinical professional counseling performed under the supervision of an LCPC or another licensed health care provider approved by the board while obtaining the two years of postgraduate supervised experience required for licensure as a clinical professional counselor.

An LMSW is an individual licensed by State Board of Social Work Examiners, on or after July 1, 2018, to practice “master social work,” which means to practice social work under the supervision of an LCSW, LCSW-C, or LMSW or, if approved by the board, to engage in independent practice.

State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

Per Maryland regulations (COMAR 10.58.12.02) a “board-approved supervisor” means (1) an LCPC, licensed clinical marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical professional art therapist, or licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor who meets the requirements for licensure and has been approved by the board or (2) an individual who is authorized by law to practice a health occupation, which includes the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of psychological problems and emotional or mental conditions of individuals or groups, and has been approved by the board.

To qualify as a supervisor, a licensee must meet the qualifications specified in Maryland regulations (COMAR 10.58.12.08). A board-approved supervisor must have two years of active clinical practice experience and complete specified education and training experience relating to supervision. A board-approved supervisor must also file the completed board-approved supervisor application form, provide the supervisee with a copy of the board’s licensed clinical professional counselor supervisor letter, and have an active license that is without restrictions or conditions due to disciplinary action for the two years preceding an application for board-approved supervisor status.

Small Business Effect: Small business behavioral health clinics may receive additional reimbursement for services provided by graduate-level clinical interns and their respective licensed supervisors.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1094 (Delegate Hutchinson, *et al.*) - Health.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
caw/ljm

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