



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 837

PRINTERS NO. 1671

PRIME SPONSOR: Aument

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act to provide title protection for Marriage and Family Therapists. This legislation would take effect in 120 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act (Act 39 of 1987) to do the following:

- Prohibits the use of the title "marriage and family therapist", "family therapist", "marriage therapist" or "couples therapist" unless the individual is licensed.
- Allows current school employees holding a marriage and family therapist position to continue to use the title without licensure during the time of their employment.
- Establishes that one seat on the 13-member State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors (Board) shall rotate between a marriage and family therapist and a professional counselor.
- Allows faith-based marriage, family, or couples therapists to use the protected titles provided they clearly identify they provide faith-based services and do not represent themselves as a licensed marriage and family therapist.
- Increases the maximum civil penalty that the Board may levy on current licensees for violating the Act from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: Over the last 10 years, the Board has levied an average of 28 civil penalties per year. This fine revenue is deposited in the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account. Increasing the amount of the maximum fine would generate additional revenue for this restricted account, however, it is impossible to predict the number of fines and the corresponding revenue increase.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 10, 2016

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.