



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 530

PRINTERS NO. 1899

PRIME SPONSOR: Killion

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	\$0	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act to require individuals who engage in the independent practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy or professional counseling to be licensed. 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 provide for independent practice and expand their scope of practice to include diagnosis.

Section 7. Qualifications for License: The requirement for graduate coursework for a marriage and family therapy license and a professional counselor license are deleted and a master's degree is required.

Section 10. Reciprocity: A clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist or professional counselor licensed in another state is permitted to practice in this Commonwealth for up to 60 days in case of a declared state of emergency.

Section 16.1. Restriction on the use of title "Licensed Clinical Social Worker": Provides for practice protection for licensed clinical social workers including advertising.

Section 16.3. Restriction on the use of title "Licensed Professional Counselor": Provides for title and practice protection for licensed professional counselors.

Section 17. Penalties: Unlicensed practice is included in the civil penalties.

Section 20. Unlawful practice: Unlicensed practice is included in prohibited acts.

Section 21. Appropriation: This section is being repealed since it pertains to the initial funding for the board (1987) and is no longer relevant.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to the Department of State, since the legislation would make it unlawful to engage in the independent practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy and professional counseling without a license issued by the Board, it may increase legal costs for enforcement. The legislation would also increase fine revenue for the Board and will likely result in increased revenues from new licensees. It is unknown as to how many individuals may be impacted by the legislation, but any costs, not covered by these new licensee registrations and the additional fine revenue, could be offset by increased biennial licensing fees established by the Board.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 20, 2018

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