



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1564

PRINTER'S NO. 2568

PRIME SPONSOR: Cerrato

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2023/24 | FY 2024/25 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | See Fiscal Impact | See Fiscal Impact |

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1564 amends section 3 of Act 39 of 1987 known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, by creating an associate marriage and family therapist license and an associate professional counselor license.

ANALYSIS:

In creating an associate marriage and family therapist license, this bill adds definitions to Section 3, including "licensed associate marriage and family therapist," "licensed associate professional counselor," "practice of associate marriage and family therapy," and "practice of associate professional counseling." The bill adds additional language to Section 4 deeming it unlawful for any person to portray themselves as a licensed associate marriage and family therapist or a licensed associate professional counselor, require the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors to set up operating procedures and develop application forms for licensing associate marriage and family therapists and associate professional counselors, and requires the board to circulate these forms and education the public to the requirements of licensing in order to hold oneself out as a licensed associate marriage and family therapist and licensed associate professional counselor.

The Board is designated the following powers relating to licensed associate marriage and family therapists and licensed associate professional counselors:

- The power to adopt and revise rules and regulations necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act.
- The power to examine for, deny, approve, issue, revoke, suspend, or renew licenses allowed under this act.

The bill further outlines qualifications for associate marriage and family therapist license, expirations of associate marriage and family therapist licenses, limitations on associate marriage and family therapist licenses, issuance of licenses for associate marriage and family therapist licenses, reciprocity of associate marriage and family therapist licenses, reinstatement of associate marriage and family therapist licenses, and restrictions on the use of the title "Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist."

This bill was amended in the Senate to require an initial application fee of \$75 and a renewal fee of \$95.

This act would take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of this bill would have a negative fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. The Department of State estimates that it would cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000 to update the Pennsylvania Licensing System to accommodate the new license types.

The addition of an application fee of \$75 and a renewal fee of \$95 would bring additional revenue into the Department of State, but exact amounts are dependent on the number of applicants and therefore a fiscal impact is indeterminate.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: March 18, 2024

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