

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 816

**PRINTER'S NO.** 1853

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 24, 2011

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Grove

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, Feb. 24, 2011

Reported as amended, May 11, 2011

First consideration, May 11, 2011

Laid on the table, May 11, 2011

Removed from table, June 23, 2011

Laid on the table, June 23, 2011

Removed from table, June 26, 2011

Second consideration, June 27, 2011

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, June 27, 2011

Re-reported as committed, June 28, 2011

Third consideration and final passage, June 28, 2011 (196-2)

Vote on third consideration and final passage reconsidered, June 28, 2011 (195-3)

Third consideration and final passage, June 30, 2011 (196-0)

In the Senate

Referred to CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 30, 2011

Reported as committed, Sept. 27, 2011

First consideration, Sept. 27, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Oct. 31, 2011

Re-reported as committed, March 5, 2012

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 816 amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act to further provide for the clinical experience and required education to obtain a clinical social worker, marriage or family therapist license. The bill changes the unit of measurement for required experience from years to hours for licensure as a clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist and a professional counselor.

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **FISCAL NOTE**

The bill allows an Academy of Certified Social Workers certification issued prior to January 2001 to substitute for the 3,000 hours of supervised experience required for the clinical social worker license. Candidates must still pass the clinical social worker examination. It allows marriage and family therapists and professional counselors with less than 48-credit master's degrees to qualify for the license if the degree was earned prior to June 30, 2009. The bill still requires candidates to complete 60 total credits and pass the marriage and family therapist or professional counselor examination. The bill reduces the hours of supervised experience required for the marriage and family therapist and professional counselor license from 3,600 to 3,000 hours.

The act will be effective in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

These changes to the clinical experience and education requirements for licensure of clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors will have no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth.