

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 43

**PRINTER'S NO.** 3541

**AMOUNT**

\$36,000 (one-time cost)  
\$ 6,000 (one-time cost)  
\$ 6,000 (one-time cost)  
\$ 6,000 (one-time cost)

**FUND**

General Fund -  
Bureau of Professional Affairs Restricted Account  
State Board of Medicine Restricted Account  
State Board of Osteopathic Medicine Restricted Account  
State Board of Podiatry Restricted Account

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 8, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Harper

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 43 amends the Volunteer Health Services Act (Act 141 of 1996), to clarify that volunteer licensees are allowed to provide mental health services in approved clinics; allow volunteer licensees to provide mental health services to military personnel and their families outside of approved clinics upon referral from approved organizations; and allow psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors to obtain a volunteer license.

The bill defines "approved organization" to be a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to refer military personnel and their families who are in need of mental health services to licensed volunteers who provide free services whether or not the services are provided in an approved clinic, and which organization is approved by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The definition of "Board" is expanded to include the State Board of Psychology and the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors. A definition of "mental health services" is added and states that the term includes, but is not limited to, providing social work, marital and family therapy, substance abuse counseling and treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. The definition of "primary health care services" is expanded to specifically include mental health services. The definition of "volunteer license" is amended to allow practice upon referral from approved organizations.

The bill establishes a procedure whereby the DMVA shall receive and review applications from organizations seeking "approved organization" status. The DMVA may approve or disapprove the applicant as an "approved organization."

The bill clarifies that the volunteer licensee may only provide services that are within their individual scope of practice.

The act shall take effect immediately.

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### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The State Board of Psychology and the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors will incur costs to promulgate regulations to provide volunteer licenses. The regulations for the health boards currently defined in the existing Act, which include the State Boards of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Dentistry, Podiatry, Nursing, Optometry and Chiropractic, will also need to be amended to reflect changes made by the legislation. The Department of State estimates that the promulgation of regulations costs about \$6,000 for each Board. For the nine Boards, the total one-time cost will be about \$54,000.

Minimal costs may be incurred by the Department of State's Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations, depending on the level of coordination and the degree to which they are consulted during the DMVA's review and approval process for "approved organizations."

The DMVA does not anticipate any adverse fiscal impact to result from the bill's passage, as they will be using documentation already submitted to other Departments, in their review and approval process for "approved organizations."