

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 67

PRINTER NO. 60

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Professional Licensure Augmentation
Account

DATE INTRODUCED

January 24, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator J. Ward

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 67 authorizes Pennsylvania to join the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (compact).

The purpose of the compact is to regulate the practice of telepsychology by psychologists across state boundaries. Under the compact, licensed psychologists can apply for one or more certifications that permit the practice of telepsychology or the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology.

The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission (commission) is the national governing body, which is responsible for the oversight of the compact. The commission consists of one voting representative appointed by each compact state who serves as that state's commissioner. The commission has the power to promulgate uniform rules to coordinate implementation and administration of the compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all compact states.

The compact becomes operative and in effect between Pennsylvania and other compact states when the Governor executes the compact on behalf of the Commonwealth. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall publish a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin that includes the date on which the compact becomes effective.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

The compact becomes operational after seven states enact model legislation. To date, twelve states have enacted and four states, including Pennsylvania, have pending compact legislation. As the compact is now effective, the commission has been established, and it is currently in the process of drafting the rules, which will govern the compact.

Under the compact, the commission has the authority to levy and collect an annual assessment from each compact state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff. The commission has not yet determined the details of any potential annual assessment on current and future compact states such as Pennsylvania. The Association of

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State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) projects the total ongoing cost for the commission will be approximately \$430,000 annually. This estimate does not reflect any anticipated start-up costs. Assuming the twelve states that have already enacted the compact and four states with pending legislation share equally in the commission’s annual cost, each state will be required to pay approximately \$27,000 annually.

A Pennsylvania-licensed psychologist interested in practicing telepsychology and/or the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology in compact states will be required to obtain additional certifications. The ASPPB and not the Department of State will be responsible for issuing these certifications. Psychologists from other compact states that choose to practice in Pennsylvania will be subject to the scope of practice and other standards established by the Pennsylvania State Board of Psychology.

Licensed psychologists will be subject to the following certification fees if interested in telepsychology and/or the temporary practice of psychology in compact states. These fees are in addition to what is required to maintain their Pennsylvania license, and will be paid directly to the ASPPB.

Telepsychology	Fee	Temp. In-Person, Face-to-Face Practice	Fee
Authorization to Practice	\$40	Temporary Authorization to Practice	\$40
Application Fee	\$400	Application Fee	\$200
Annual Renewal Fee	\$100	Annual Renewal Fee	\$50

The current fee schedule charged by the Pennsylvania State Board of Psychology is as follows:

Initial application fee...	\$105
Reapplication fee—first time examination failure...	\$20
Reapplication fee—subsequent examination failure...	\$90
Certification fee...	\$25
Verification fee...	\$15
Biennial renewal fee...	\$300
Application fee—continuing education sponsor/ provider approval...	\$165
Fictitious/corporate name registration...	\$80

The Department of State reports that there will be minimal costs associated with Pennsylvania joining the compact as outlined in Senate Bill 67. Based on the \$27,000 annual estimate to participate in the commission, the department can accommodate this additional cost within its existing budget.

The objectives of the compact align with the portability of out-of-state licenses and the expansion of the process of issuing licenses by endorsement as mandated by Act 41 of 2019. The professional licensure boards and commissions began implementing the requirements of Act 41 in August 2019.