

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1564

PRINTER NO. 2568

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

July 11, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Cerrato

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1564 amends the act known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act providing for the creation of an associate license for marriage and family therapists and an associate license for professional counselors.

The bill adds definitions for the two new associate license types, defines the practice of associate level marriage and family therapy and professional counseling and makes related technical changes to include the associate licenses in existing operating procedures and requirements under law.

An initial application fee of \$75 shall be required, and a \$95 fee shall be required for renewal. The fee may be altered by regulation.

In order to qualify for associate licensure as a marriage and family therapist, an applicant shall meet the following:

- Be at least 21 years of age and of good moral character;
- Fulfill educational requirements outlined for marriage and family therapists;
- Submit a clinical marriage and family therapy plan of supervision, including a detailed job description and the location where client contact will occur;
- Submit the supervisor's resume, which shall document that the supervisor has no less than five full-time years of experience or the equivalent and holds a current active license to practice as a marriage and family therapist;
- Complete an application and pay the established fee; and
- Submit proof that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

To qualify for licensure as an associate professional counselor, an applicant shall meet the following:

- Be at least 21 years of age and of good moral character;
- Fulfill educational requirements outlined for professional counselors;
- Submit a plan of supervision, including a detailed job description and the location where client contact will occur;

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- Submit the supervisor's resume as acceptable to the licensing board;
- Complete an application and pay the established fee; and
- Submit proof that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

A licensed associate counselor shall work under the supervision of a licensed professional counselor who directs the activities of the associate counselor. In addition, an associate counselor shall not practice in a private setting without the direction of a supervisor.

The bill also creates title protections for "licensed associate marriage and family therapist" (L.A.M.F.T.) and "licensed associate professional counselor" (L.A.P.C.) and prohibits individuals from styling oneself without holding a license in good standing. Associate licensure under this act shall not require new or additional third-party reimbursement or to otherwise mandate insurance coverage.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of State, House Bill 1564 will result in new costs of \$30,000 to \$40,000 in order to update the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) to accommodate the new types of licenses.

The application fee of \$75 and a renewal fee of \$95 will generate \$7,500 and \$9,500 per 100 applicants, respectively.