Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127 th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
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BILL: **Sub. H.B. 427** DATE: **December 17, 2008**

STATUS: **As Enacted – Effective April 7, 2009** SPONSOR: **Reps. Webster and Letson**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — No local cost**

CONTENTS: **Revises the law regarding the practice of marriage and family therapy and the membership of the professional standards committees of the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board**

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2009 and FUTURE YEARS
Fund 4K9 (Operational Licensing Fund)	
Revenues	Potential minimal gain
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2009 is July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

- The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board may experience a minimal gain in fee revenue as a result of an increase in applications for licensure as a marriage and family therapist and an independent marriage and family therapist. For each new application, the Board will experience an increase in administrative costs to process the application and, if all requirements are met, issue a license to practice and perform all the duties to regulate and enforce the practice of the licensee.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Marriage and family therapy

Scope of practice

The bill modifies the definitions of "marriage and family therapy" and "practice of marriage and family therapy" to resolve an inconsistency regarding scope of practice.[1] The bill clarifies that these definitions include the diagnosis (as well as the treatment) of mental *and* emotional disorders.

The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board expects to see a slight increase in the number of applicants seeking a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist or an independent marriage and family therapist as a result of expanding the scope of practice and potential for reimbursement for services provided. Any increase in the number of applicants will result in increased fee revenue to the Board. The fee for a two-year license to practice as a marriage and family therapist, as well as for a two-year license renewal, is $60. The fee for a two-year license to practice as an independent marriage and family therapist, as well as for a two-year license renewal, is $75. For each new application, the Board will experience an increase in administrative costs to process the application and, if all requirements are met, issue a license to practice and perform all the duties to regulate and enforce the practice of the licensee.

These provisions may have the indirect effect of providing marriage and family therapists and independent marriage and family therapists the opportunity to receive reimbursement for services provided through local county mental health boards.

Other changes

The bill makes other changes regarding training to practice as a marriage and family therapist or an independent marriage and family therapist, supervision by an independent marriage and family therapist, and the authority and membership of the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee. These changes are not expected to have any fiscal effect on state or local government.

Rehabilitation services – national accreditation compliance

The bill eliminates a requirement of H.B. 562 (the capital bill) that the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) enter into a contract, in accordance with certain provisions of federal law, with the Ohio Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (OARF) to establish and implement the Community Rehabilitation Program National Accreditation Compliance and Monitoring Program by July 24, 2008 (within 30 days of the effective date of the capital bill). According to a representative of ORSC, a contract was entered into prior to June 24, 2008 (the effective date of the capital bill), for the provision of *services*. The current

[1] For a detailed discussion of the inconsistency, see the LSC bill analysis.

language of the capital bill would require ORSC to cancel its existing contract with OARF and enter into a new one under the federal regulations governing *administrative expenses*. Elimination of this provision will allow ORSC to maintain the existing contract with OARF thereby avoiding the cost of renegotiating the contract.

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