
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

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.

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