# *Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement*

*127 th General Assembly of Ohio*

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
77 South High Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6136 ✧ Phone: (614) 466-3615
✧ *Internet Web Site:* http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/

BILL: **H.B. 427** DATE: **April 2, 2008**

STATUS: **As Introduced** 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 | FY 2010 | FUTURE YEARS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fund 4K9 (Operational Licensing Fund)** | | | |
| Revenues | Potential minimal gain | Potential minimal gain | Potential minimal gain |
| Expenditures | - 0 - | - 0 - | - 0 - |

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.

## *Local Fiscal Highlights*

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

# *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.

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.

*LSC fiscal staff: Stephanie Suer, Budget Analyst*

*HB0427IN/lb*

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