

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-7132

AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATES AND MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 8237)

House Calendar No.: 339

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	19,351	23,641
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	7,303	9,738
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	40,835	68,720

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the licensure of professional counselor associates (PCAs) and licensed martial and family therapist associates (LMFTAs) by the Department of Public Health (DPH), is anticipated to result in a net General Fund revenue gain of approximately \$14,001 in FY 20 and \$35,341 in FY 21.

The anticipated FY 20 cost to the State of \$26,834 includes total estimated DPH expenses of \$19,531. DPH costs reflect the salary for a half-time Office Assistant \$17,731 (partial year, as the bill is effective 10/1/19), and a one-time equipment cost of \$1,800 for a computer, software, and scanner for this employee. The full-year salary for the Office Assistant in FY 21 is approximately \$23,641. The State

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.

Comptroller fringe benefit cost for this position is \$7,303 in FY 20 \$9,738 in FY 21.

General Fund revenue of approximately \$40,835 is anticipated in FY 20 from the following:

- The initial licensure of approximately 143 PCAs with a fee of \$220 per application = \$31,460
- The initial licensure of approximately 75 LMFTAs with a fee of \$125 per application = \$9,375

In FY 21, General Fund revenue of approximately \$68,720 is anticipated from:

- The initial licensure of approximately 143 PCAs = \$31,460
- The renewal licensure of approximately 143 PCAs with a fee of \$195 per application = \$27,885
- The initial licensure of approximately 72 LMFTAs = \$9,375

In 2018, there were 2,865 licensed professional counselors and 1,489 licensed martial and family therapist in Connecticut. Using the percent of Master's Level Social Worker temporary licenses issued for the licensed Master's Level Social Worker population, it is assumed that approximately five percent of professional counselors and licensed martial and family therapists will seek associate licensure annually. LMFTA licensure is biannual under the bill. Therefore, revenue from its \$220 renewal fee is not anticipated until the out years.

House "A" makes technical changes to statute in concert with the language of the underlying bill and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above will continue into the future subject to the number of initial and renewal licenses for PCAs and LMFTAs issued by DPH and cost inflation.