

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1897

Patron: Willett

Bill Title: Board of Social Work; Board of Counseling; master's social worker; scope of practice; regulations.

Bill Summary: Expands the scope of practice of master's social workers to allow the provision of clinical services under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker and directs the Board of Social Work to promulgate regulations reflecting this provision. The bill also directs the Board of Counseling to amend its regulations relating to the registration of baccalaureate social workers as qualified mental health professionals to allow a more streamlined registration pathway for such social workers and to increase the number of registered qualified mental health professionals in the Commonwealth.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Explanation: Any fiscal impacts are minimal and can be absorbed with existing resources. This bill does not require that language updates be made to the proposed Appropriation Act.

Fiscal Summary: Any fiscal impacts resulting from this bill are minimal and can be absorbed with existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Board of Social Work to promulgate new regulations reflecting that a master's social worker is able to provide clinical services under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. The bill also requires the Board of Counseling to amend existing regulations in order to streamline the pathway for baccalaureate social workers to become qualified mental health professionals as defined by the Board. Both the Board of Social Work and the Board of Counseling may experience minor cost impacts resulting from promulgating new regulations or amending existing regulations. It is expected that these costs can be absorbed through existing resources.

Other: n/a