

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**PUBLISHED: 2/9/2026 4:24 PM**

**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB1282

**Patron:** Cole, J.G.

**Bill Title:** Licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners; licensure by endorsement; licensure without examination.

**Bill Summary:** Directs the Board of Counseling to establish a pathway to licensure by endorsement for applicants who have held certification as a certified substance abuse counselor for at least 10 years, have completed at least five years of documented supervised experience, hold at least a master's degree in an appropriate field of counseling, and hold a Master Addiction Counselor credential issued by NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. The bill provides that such pathway to licensure by endorsement does not require examination.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** n/a

**Fiscal Summary:** Minimal/absorbable fiscal impact.

**Fiscal Analysis:** This bill requires the Board of Counseling (the Board) to establish a pathway for licensure by endorsement as a licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, provided such individuals seeking licensure meet certain certification, practice, and educational requirements. While it is unknown how many individuals may be eligible for the new licensure pathway, any applications for the new licensure pathway will create new review responsibilities on the part of the Board. It is expected that any cost or workload impacts associated with such responsibilities can be absorbed within the Board's existing resources and staffing levels.

**Other:** n/a