

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1282 ER

Patron: Cole, J.G.

Bill Title: Licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners; licensure by endorsement, etc.

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 and have actively practiced in the substance abuse treatment field during such period with no history of disciplinary action, 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 from NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, that is either issued via examination or through an approved grandfathering process.

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, discipline, 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