



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1103**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0540

**Date:** July 19, 2016

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Kraft-Tharp; Landgraf  
Sen. Martinez Humenik;  
Todd

**Bill Status:** Signed into Law

**Fiscal Analyst:** Amanda Hayden (303-866-4918)

**BILL TOPIC:** LICENSE PATHWAYS FOR MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Minimal workload increase.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b>	None.	
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b>	None.	

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill specifies that candidates seeking licensure as a mental health professional may, but are not required to, register with the database of registered psychotherapists after completing their degree. Mental health professionals covered by the bill include psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and any other individual enrolled in a professional training program at an approved school actively working toward licensure.

The bill clarifies that a candidate seeking a mental health license must "have completed" (rather than "hold") a degree in order to fulfill the educational requirements for licensure.

**Background**

The Division of Professions and Occupations within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) regulates mental health professionals. Of the six mental health professions, psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors must be licensed; addiction counselors may be licensed or certified, depending on their credentials; and psychotherapists must be registered.

**State Expenditures**

The bill increases workload in DORA by a minimal amount. DORA will need to conduct outreach to the mental health community to communicate the minor changes concerning registration with the database of registered psychotherapists and educational requirements for licensure. This increase in workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 15, 2016, and takes effect January 1, 2017.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Human Services	Information Technology
Municipalities	Regulatory Agencies	

**Research Note Available**

An LCS Research Note for HB16-1103 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.