



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1103

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0540	Date: January 28, 2016
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Kraft-Tharp; Landgraf Sen. Martinez Humenik; Todd	Bill Status: House Public Health Care and Human Services Fiscal Analyst: Amanda Hayden (303-866-4918)

BILL TOPIC: LICENSE PATHWAYS FOR MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	\$11,876	
Cash Funds	11,876	
Appropriation Required: \$11,876 - Department of Regulatory Agencies (FY 2016-17).		
Future Year Impacts: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill specifies that candidates seeking licensure as a mental health professional may register with the database of registered psychotherapists after completing their degree. However, they may not count any hours accrued while registered as a psychotherapist toward the hours necessary for licensure. Mental health professionals covered by the bill include psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, addiction 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. The bill also requires each state board of examiners for the various mental health professions to promulgate rules related to the number of work practice hours that must be accrued by an individual seeking multiple licenses.

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 and state cash fund expenditures in DORA by \$11,876 in FY 2016-17. Specifically, DORA will need an estimated 125 hours of legal services to assist the various state boards of examiners in promulgating rules relating to the number of work hours necessary for licensure in multiple mental health professions and the educational requirements for licensure. These services, provided by the Department of Law, will be a one-time cost estimated at \$11,876 in FY 2016-17 and be paid from the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund.

In addition, the bill increases workload for DORA to conduct outreach to the mental health community to communicate changes and ensure compliance with the new rules related to registration with the database of registered psychotherapists and educational requirements for licensure. DORA must also investigate and resolve complaints related to the standards of practice for supervisors providing oversight of clinical hours. This increase in workload is expected to be minimal enough and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The first five sections of the bill take effect September 1, 2017. Sections 6 to 19 take effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

The bill requires an appropriation of \$11,876 in FY 2016-17 to DORA from the Department of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund, the entire amount of which is reappropriated to the Department of Law for legal services.

State and Local Government Contacts

Cities	Counties
Human Services	Office of Information Technology
Regulatory Agencies	