

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/06/2012
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: Board of Behavioral Sciences and CA Ass. of Marriage and Family Therapists

BILL NUMBER: SB 1527
AUTHOR: Negrete McLeod, Gloria

BILL SUMMARY: Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensing.

This bill would revise the requirements for the licensing and registration of marriage and family therapists (MFT), licensed clinical social workers (LCSW), associate clinical social workers (ACSW), and licensed professional clinical counselors (LPCC).

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the state.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it would enhance consumer protection by requiring MFTs, LCSWs, ACSWs, and LPCCs applicants to pass the California law and ethics examination and other standardized testing.

Existing law:

- Provides for the licensing and regulation of MFTs, LCSWs, ACSWs, and LPCCs by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board).
Authorizes the Board to issue a license to an MFT, LCSW, ACSW, and LPCC from another jurisdiction provided the person holds a current license from that jurisdiction under certain conditions.
Requires an applicant to satisfy certain training and course work requirements.
Requires a person who wishes to be credited with experience toward licensing requirements to register with the Board as an ACSW.

This bill would:

- Require the licensee from another jurisdiction to be in good standing and would require these applicants to complete an 18-hour course in California law and ethics.
Require the person from another jurisdiction to pass the California law and ethics examination, but would exempt the person from the clinical examination if the person has already received a passing score on an examination accepted by the Board, as provided by a regulation adopted by the Board.
Beginning January 1, 2014, provide that a passing score on the clinical examination shall be accepted by the Board for a period of seven years after the examination date.
Beginning January 1, 2014, require licensees to complete training and coursework in California law and professional ethics for clinical social workers.

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
(0222) J.Carosone Lisa Ann Mangat

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

Form DF-43

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COMMENTS (continued)

- Beginning January 1, 2014, restructure the examination process by requiring an out-of-state LCSW applicant to complete training or coursework in California law and professional ethics, before the applicant can receive a clinical social worker license.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)					
	CO	PROP					
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014	
1110/ConAfr-ReqBd	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----			0773
1256/Othr Reg Fee	RV	No		----- See Fiscal Summary -----			0001
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>						
0001	General Fund						
0773	Behavioral Science Examiners Fund						