

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB257S1

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Hashmi

3. **Committee:** Finance and Appropriations

4. **Title:** Licensure of professional counselors; Counseling Compact.

5. **Summary:** That the Department of Health Professions (the Department) shall review the merits of the Commonwealth entering into the Counseling Compact, an interstate compact to facilitate the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors. The Department shall evaluate the Counseling Compact's impacts on (i) state and local costs associated with entering the Counseling Compact, (ii) the potential increase in public access to counseling services, (iii) the opportunity to support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel, (iv) benefits that may result from the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information among states that are members of the Counseling Compact, (v) facilitating the use of telehealth technology to increase public access to counseling services, (vi) eliminating the need for multistate licensure of counselors, (vii) quantifiable enhancements to public health and safety, and (viii) any other factor deemed relevant by the Department. The Department shall report its findings to the General Assembly no later than September 1, 2022.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Minimal, see item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The provisions of this legislation, as amended, would have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Health Professions. Any increase in workload to perform the study and report findings can be handled within existing resources.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health Professions.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.