

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 612

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

2. Patron: Robinson, Roxann L.

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Genetic counseling; licensure

5. Summary: The enrolled legislation provides that no person can practice or hold himself out as practicing genetic counseling without a valid, unrevoked license as a genetic counselor from the Board of Medicine; establishes requirements and a process for licensure as a genetic counselor; sets forth exemptions from the requirements for a license; and establishes the Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. There is no clear estimate as to the additional expenditure required for the licensure of this profession. However, the need for additional nongeneral fund appropriation is not expected to be significant and can be covered within the agency's existing appropriation.

7. Fiscal Impact is Indeterminate: Final (see item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: Although the regulation of genetic counselors will have a fiscal impact on the Board of Medicine, the amount and impact on regulatory fees is unknown. It is assumed that the Board of Medicine's costs for licensing and disciplinary functions will increase. The fee structure for professions regulated by the Department of Health Professions (DHP) is established as to offset the anticipated costs of the board. Although the department does not have an exact estimate, it assumes that approximately 60 genetic counselors would be initially licensed in the Commonwealth. Based on this number, the fees for genetic counselors could be comparable to those of licensed midwives (\$277 for an application and \$312 for a biennial renewal).

Each profession regulated by the DHP has a dedicated advisory board, which costs approximately \$4,000 per year. This amount includes four annual meetings for the five advisory members and the associated costs to attend the four annual meetings of the full Board of Medicine. In addition, there is the cost of licensure and disciplinary functions. It is estimated that the anticipated revenue generated by licensure of this profession will be adequate to support an additional advisory board and the costs associated with licensure and discipline.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to SB 330.

Date: 2/11/14