



Maryland Counseling Association, Inc. is a Branch of the American Counseling Association

A 501(c)3 Corporation, EIN: 84-4062414

915 Russell Ave, Suite B, Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Phone: 240-401-8686/Web: www.mdcounseling.org

03/12/24

Good morning MCA Members,

The Advocacy Committee hopes you are doing well. We wanted to provide an update on two bills in the Maryland General Assembly right now. MCA has submitted testimony on both these bills. Following you will find the links to the bills, a brief synopsis of each bill, MCA's position on each bill, and the action we are asking MCA members to take.

BILL LINKS:

House Bill [146](#) corresponding bill Senate Bill [221](#)

House Bill [628](#) corresponding bill Senate Bill [409](#)

BRIEF SYNOPSIS:

HB 146/SB 221- This bill removes the language of jurisdiction and states that individuals who are licensed as Marriage and Family Therapists in another state applying for licensure in MD will apply to the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists/ Health Occupations Board, who will determine equivalency for licensing.

HB 628/SB 409- This bill is proposing to add language stating that if a Marriage and Family Therapist is licensed in another state and in good standing, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists shall waive the licensure equivalency requirements.

MCA's POSITION:

HB146/SB221- MCA supports these bills.

HB628/SB409- MCA does not support these bills and has written concern for waiving equivalency requirements.

CONCERN:

HB146/SB221 and HB628/SB409 are in contradiction to one another. All the bills are moving along in the voting process.

ACTION TO TAKE:

Write or call your local representative in the House and Senate to inform your position (Support or Do Not Support). Find your representatives [here](#).

[SAMPLE STATEMENTS](#) (found on bottom of page)

Sincerely,

Roni

Roni K. White, NCC, LCPC
MCA Advocacy Committee Chair
Advocacy@MDCounseling.org

Sara

Sara Fox
M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling Candidate 2025
Vice-Chair, MCA Advocacy Committee
Advocacy@MDCounseling.org