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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 204
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 204's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Health

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Ryan Sherrock, Economist

Highlights

- The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist (CSW) Board could realize administrative costs, including costs associated with issuing compact privileges and submitting required data. However, the bill allows CSW to charge a fee for granting compact privileges, which could help offset some costs.
- The Compact Commission may collect an annual assessment from each participating member state.
- The Counseling Compact will not go into effect until it is enacted by ten states.

Detailed Analysis

The bill enters Ohio into the Counseling Compact to facilitate the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors by requiring Ohio to permit individuals to practice who hold valid, unencumbered professional counselor licenses in other member states. The bill outlines the requirements to participate in the Compact. Under the Compact, the CSW Board will be required to select an individual to serve as Ohio's delegate. Each member state will, among other things, be required to submit data to the Compact Commission's data system regarding licensees. The Commission may collect an annual assessment from member states. The CSW Board may realize some costs to amend/adopt rules if necessary and make upgrades to the eLicensing system. In addition, by joining the Compact, the CSW Board may receive additional complaints and participate in additional investigations involving complaints about those with compact privileges. The CSW Board stated that these costs should be minimal. In addition, the bill allows member states to charge fees to individuals applying for compact privileges and possibly to impose fines and recover from licensees costs of investigations if permitted by state law. Any revenues received will help offset some of these costs.

The bill could also result in indirect impacts to the state and political subdivisions. Counselors that practice in Ohio with a compact privilege could provide additional services to Ohioans and provide increased access. If this occurs, there could be additional reimbursements from state and local programs that reimburse for these services. Additionally, the bill specifies that member states must recognize the right of a licensed professional counselor to practice via telehealth. If an Ohio resident utilizes an out-of-network provider, there could be additional costs to state or local programs or health plans.

The Compact is not currently in effect, and will not go into effect until ten states enact the Compact.