

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting Legislative Budget Office



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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist (CSW) Board will experience costs to participate in the Social Work Licensure Compact, including costs to process multistate licenses, investigate complaints, provide required information, and possibly pay an annual assessment. However, the CSW Board may realize revenues for any multistate license fees collected. The total costs, as well as the amount of revenues received, will depend on the number of social workers seeking a multistate license.

Detailed Analysis

The bill enters Ohio as a party to the Social Work Licensure Compact. This will require Ohio to extend the ability to practice to social workers with a multistate license from another Compact member state. The Compact provides that remote states may take adverse actions against licensees, including administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal actions permitted by a state's laws. A state where a social worker is practicing with a multistate license, but is not the home state, may take adverse action against the social worker's multistate authorization to practice only within that member state. The home state has the power to impose adverse action against a multistate license. As a result, the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist (CSW) Board may receive complaints regarding out-of-state practitioners with a multistate license, which may result in costs for investigations and disciplinary action. If there are any criminal actions taken, there could be court costs. Additionally, the CSW Board will be required to submit specified information to the Compact Commission on all social workers to whom the Compact is applicable. There will be administrative costs to submit this information, to promulgate any rules, and possibly to update information technology or the CSW Board's website. However, participating states may impose fees, which may help offset some costs. Costs, and the amount of revenue received, will depend on the number of social workers seeking a multistate license.

The Compact Commission is permitted to impose annual assessments on participating states. Additionally, the CSW Board will be required to select one delegate to serve on the Compact Commission. These provisions could also result in costs to the CSW Board.

The bill could result in indirect impacts to the state and political subdivisions. If social workers provide telehealth services in Ohio through the Compact privilege, there could be additional reimbursements from state and local programs for these services.

The Compact becomes effective when seven states enact it into law. It does not appear any states have enacted the Compact yet.

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