

CHAPTER 734

(Senate Bill 477)

AN ACT concerning

Professional Counselors - Certification

FOR the purpose of creating a Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors to regulate the provision of professional counseling services within this State; defining certain terms; providing for members and terms of the Board; providing for examinations and qualifications for certification of professional counselors; establishing hearing procedures and penalties; establishing powers and duties of the Board; providing for certification, term, and renewals; providing for qualifications and examinations; ~~providing for confidentiality of certain communications~~; providing for a code of ethics; making certain representations illegal by a person who is not certified under this Act; providing for penalties; providing for the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to include the Board; providing for a legislative review under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act of the provisions of law and the rules and regulations that relate to the Board by a certain date; making provisions of this Act severable; providing for a certain effective date; providing that this Act is not intended to provide any mandated reimbursement for professional counselors merely because of their certification; and generally relating to the certification and regulation of professional counseling services within the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 48A - Insurance Code
Section 354Z, 470U, and 477AA
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1984 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Health Occupations
Section 15.5-101 through 15.5-502, inclusive, to be under
the new title "Title 15.5. Professional Counselors"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1981 Volume and 1984 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,