



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

**18 VAC 115-20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Professional Counseling
18 VAC 115-50 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy
Department of Health Professions
July 21, 2009**

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Counseling proposes to add another professional group to the list of entities that are approved to offer continuing educations and supervisor training.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for this proposed change.

Estimated Economic Impact

Current Board regulations contain a list of entities that are able to approve or certify workshops, seminars, conferences or courses that can be used to satisfy continuing education requirements/supervisor training requirements for licensed professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists. The Board proposes to add the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) to this list. This means that licensees will be able to get credit toward Board required education for classes that are approved by AAPC. Since licensees will not be required to take classes through AAPC, they would likely only choose these classes if they are no more expensive or inconvenient than other, already approved, alternatives. Consequently, licensees are not likely to incur any additional cost on account of this proposed change. Licensees may, however, benefit from having additional training opportunities available that may prove to be less costly or more convenient.

Businesses and Entities Affected

This regulatory action will affect the 3,220 professional counselors and 849 marriage and family therapists that are currently licensed by the Board, as well as any individuals who become licensed at some point in the future.

Localities Particularly Affected

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory action.

Projected Impact on Employment

This regulatory action will likely have no impact on employment in the Commonwealth.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

Real Estate Development Costs

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to

be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.