



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706**

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

January 29, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements set forth in the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80), the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has undertaken a review of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's (IDFPR) oversight of the Genetic Counselor Licensing Act (225 ILCS 135). GOMB has provided my office with a copy of its report and recommendations regarding the Act and whether the Act should be terminated, modified, or continued. I have reviewed GOMB's report and offer the following comments and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The Genetic Counselor Licensing Act governs the licensure of genetic counseling in the State of Illinois. The absence of licensed genetic counselors would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would also eliminate the ethical standards that protect consumers and the services for genetic counseling. Genetic counseling is a relatively new profession and recent years have generated an advent of generic genetic tests available to the public. To protect the consumer and the profession, it is imperative that Illinois utilize licensing and operational requirements for genetic counseling. State laws govern the coordination of assessments, the delivery of accurate information to families, assist families who are adjusting to the implications of their diagnosis, and ensure that genetic information is used appropriately in the delivery of medical care. Without regulation, genetic counseling would have insufficient standards that could result in threats to public health. Therefore, the health and safety of the public is put at risk without proper training, licensing, and oversight of genetic counseling.

No changes are recommended to the Genetic Counselor Licensing Act or IDFPR's enabling statute. This study acknowledges the December 2023 filing of HB 4282, which amends the Act to permit licenses to be submitted electronically, removes the provision authorizing IDFPR to maintain a list of individuals who have a suspended, revoked or denied license, and makes grammatical and conforming changes. The study also identifies that education and training opportunities for this profession are limited within Illinois and proposes additional analysis and engagement between IDFPR, industry groups and educational institutions with an eye toward broadening opportunity.

The absence of regulation of this industry would pose a significant and direct harm to the welfare of the public. Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the state's regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the licensure and regulation of this profession. Consequently, the Act is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Genetic Counselor Licensing Act should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without placing burden on licensees and commerce.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget's report is provided for your reference.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the letters "JB" being particularly prominent and connected to the rest of the name.

JB Pritzker
Governor