

West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling

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Statement of Circumstances

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Rule Series 2

- ❖ Current budgetary needs will not be met if the fees are not increased.
- ❖ WVBECC has obtained a public office and along with the reoccurring and rising costs of daily operations, a fee increase is necessary.
- ❖ The majority of the expenses WVBECC occur from different WV agencies (BRIM, Auditor, ISC fees, etc) have increased by varying degrees
- ❖ As the work load has increased tremendously since 2001 due to the implementation of more monitoring procedures for the protection of the public, an additional staff member was hired.
- ❖ But our most unpredictable expense is the Attorney General services. To carry out the provisions of WV Code 30-30-7, a hearing must be afforded to the individual charged with violations of ethical conduct. WVBECC has had at least two complaints that have been over \$4000.00 in costs and more that range in the area of \$600.00-\$15000.00 each. We have been overextended in this area many times.

Brief Summary

- ❖ Based on our current numbers, WVBECC needs to generate an additional \$50,000.00 **biennially**. Approximately 65-70% of our revenue is generated through **renewal fees** on a biennial basis. Our biennial renewal cycle runs from July 1, odd numbered year through June 30, odd numbered year. Non-renewal income has been consistently the same every year for the last four years.
- ❖ **The proposed renewal fee will not take effect until the renewal cycle of July 2011.** Therefore, it is necessary to also raise many of the non-renewal operating fees to maintain the sufficiency of the board. The last renewal fee increase occurred in 2004.
- ❖ Currently, WV has 1083 Licensed Professional Counselors. WVBECC is proposing a biennial renewal fee of \$220.00 (currently \$150.00). In evaluating some of our surrounding states that are somewhat comparable in size with the number of licensees, the WVBECC proposed increase is realistic. Kentucky (761 licensees) has a renewal fee of \$300.00 biennially, Maryland's (2845 licensees) biennial renewal fee is \$232.00, while Virginia (2781 licensees) has a \$210.00 biennial renewal fee.
- ❖ Bottom line: This Board has always operated "close to the vest" financially. Fees must be increased to maintain our sufficiency to operate.