



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

Board of Social Work Examiners
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**2021 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 597
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board of Social Work Examiners – Revisions

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill requires that certain individuals employed by federal agencies to comply with certain provisions of the law; establishes that an applicant obtain a certified social worker license to meet certain requirements by December 21, 2023; alters the number of hours of supervision an applicant for a certified social worker-clinical license is required to complete; prohibiting a licensed master social worker or a licensed certified social worker from engaging in private practice; replacing the “social worker rehabilitation committee” with the “social worker rehabilitation process”; repealing references to the obsolete license category of licensed graduate social worker; etc.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) supports SB 597.

This bill presents the recommendations of the Board following a comprehensive review of the Board’s statute. This includes the removal of dates that are no longer relevant and updated dates throughout the statute; the incorporation of the term “behavioral health” to replace the word “mental” where appropriate; the deletion of the category of Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) which no longer exists; the reduction of the number of required supervised clinical practice hours from 144 to 100 to conform to the number of hours required by neighboring states (such as DC, Virginia, Delaware and New York); the change of the Social Work Rehabilitation Committee (obsolete) to the Social Work Rehabilitation Process; a change in the maximum fine to reflect an increased limit consistent with other State laws that have previously raised the level of the fine; a delay in the requirement for criminal background checks from 2021 to 2023; correcting the name of this act from the “Maryland Social Worker’s Act” to the “Maryland Social Workers Practice Act”; and making other clarifying changes to correct obsolete language .

In general, the Board believes the changes reflect current practice, will facilitate mobility for

social workers practicing in neighboring states, and will give additional time to social workers to complete criminal background checks.

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners requests a favorable report on SB 597. For more information, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Dr. Stanley E. Weinstein at 410-764-4722 or Stanley.Weinstein@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration