

# SENATE BILL 106

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4lr0664

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Kelly**

Requested: September 20, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Social Work Examiners – Board Membership and Certified Social**  
3 **Worker Licenses**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Board of Social Work Examiners;  
5 repealing obsolete references to certified social worker licenses; and generally  
6 relating to the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Health Occupations

9 Section 19–101(a) and (b)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Health Occupations

14 Section 19–202(a), 19–302.1, and 19–309(d)(6)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Health Occupations**

20 19–101.

21 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (b) “Board” means the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 19–202.

2 (a) (1) The Board consists of 12 members.

3 (2) Of the 12 Board members:

4 (i) 10 shall be licensed social workers of whom:

5 1. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, 1 is a licensed  
6 bachelor social worker;

7 2. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, 1 is a licensed  
8 master social worker at the time of appointment;

9 3. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at least 1 is [a]:

10 **A. A licensed certified social worker; OR**

11 **B. A LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER WHO IS**  
12 **APPROVED FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE;**

13 4. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at least 4 are  
14 licensed certified social workers—clinical;

15 5. 1 is a licensed social worker employed by the Department  
16 of Human Services; and

17 6. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, 1 is a licensed  
18 social worker who is:

19 A. Primarily engaged in social worker education at a social  
20 work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and

21 B. Nominated from a list of names submitted by the deans  
22 and directors of the Maryland Social Work Education Programs; and

23 (ii) 2 shall be consumer members.

24 (3) If a [licensed bachelor social worker, a licensed master social worker, a  
25 licensed certified social worker, a licensed certified social worker—clinical, or a licensed  
26 social worker] **LICENSEE OF THE SPECIFIED LICENSE CATEGORY** is not appointed to the  
27 Board under paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection within 3 months of a vacancy, a licensee of  
28 any license category shall be appointed immediately if that licensee is qualified to be a  
29 member of the Board under subsections (b) and (d) of this section.

30 (4) The Governor shall appoint all members of the Board with the advice

1 of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

2 (5) The Governor shall appoint all social work members of the Board from  
3 a list of nominees containing names submitted by:

4 (i) Professional social work associations in the State;

5 (ii) Any person who provides a statement of nomination signed by at  
6 least 15 social workers licensed in the State;

7 (iii) The secretaries of public agencies of the State where social  
8 workers are employed; or

9 (iv) The corporate executive officers or executive directors of private  
10 organizations where social workers are employed.

11 19–302.1.

12 To obtain a [certified social worker license or a] certified social worker–clinical  
13 license, an out–of–state applicant shall:

14 (1) Meet the requirements of § 19–302(a) of this subtitle;

15 (2) Be licensed or registered to practice social work in another state under  
16 a category of licensure that is equivalent to a [certified social worker license or a] certified  
17 social worker–clinical license;

18 (3) Have passed an examination in that state as a condition of licensure;  
19 and

20 (4) Have performed at least 1,000 hours of compensated social work  
21 practice per year for 5 years out of the 10 years preceding application to the Board.

22 19–309.

23 (d) Subject to subsection (e) of this section, the Board shall reissue a license to an  
24 individual who:

25 (6) (i) Passes the respective examination required for initial licensure;  
26 or

27 (ii) 1. Holds an active license to practice social work in another  
28 state under a category of licensure that is equivalent to a licensed bachelor social worker,  
29 licensed master social worker, [certified social worker,] or certified social worker–clinical;  
30 and

31 2. Has passed an examination in that state as a condition of

1 licensure.

2           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
3 1, 2024.