

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk
The Health and Government Operations Committee

**RE: HB 103 – State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work
Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Madam Chair Pena-Melnyk, and esteemed Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

On behalf of Pressley Ridge, I urge a favorable report on the above legislation. Pressley Ridge is a private non-profit organization that provides foster care support to families and youth in Maryland. We applaud Senator Chris West for sponsoring this legislation.

The purpose of this written testimony is to focus on other states' temporary licensing process, as well as explain how current licensing boards in Maryland issue temporary licenses.

I. Other States

There are currently 24 states that allow temporary licensure for social workers. Here are some examples that are analogous to HB 103/SB 145:

Indiana¹ - Allows temporary permits for up to 12 months, or until you pass the test. Indiana allows a temporary license to practice prior to passing a licensing exam.

Wisconsin² - In the statute, it states that "The social worker section may issue a temporary certificate permitting the use of the title "social worker" to an individual who pays the fee and who meets all the qualifications for the social worker certificate except for passing the required examinations."

¹ [Social Work Licensing in Indiana - National Association Of Social Workers Indiana Chapter \(naswin.org\)](https://www.naswin.org/social-work-licensing-in-indiana)

² https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/mpsw/3

West Virginia³ - This is a temporary license for applicants who have never taken the state social work exam, but hold a certain accredited degree in social work (BSW or MSW) - OR - are enrolled in their final semester prior to graduation leading to their degree in social work.

Texas – See attached application for temporary license. Included on the application is language that states that the temporary license is “valid until the licensee attempts the appropriate examination, or at the end of the six-month issuance of the temporary license.”

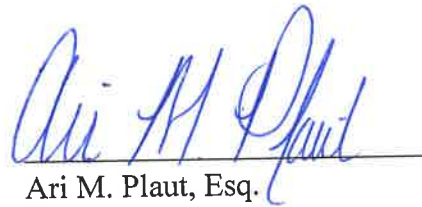
Connecticut⁴ - The Department may issue a temporary permit to an applicant for licensure as a master's level social worker who holds a master's degree from an accredited social work educational program but who has not yet taken the licensure examination.

II. Other Boards in Maryland

In addition to the above states that allow for temporary licenses to practice social work, Maryland already allows several other professionals to practice their respective occupations with a temporary license. For example, Maryland Department of Health Board of Occupational Therapy⁵, and the Maryland Board of Nursing⁶.

As you can see above, this passing SB 145 is not precedent setting because it is already commonplace to issue temporary licenses in Maryland, and temporary social work licenses across the U.S.

Thank you for your time and we encourage the Committee to support a favorable report on HB 103.



Ari M. Plaut, Esq.
Boston Plaut Law Offices
On Behalf of Pressley Ridge

³ [West Virginia Board of Social Work > Licensure > License Types > Temporary Permit \(wvsocialworkboard.org\)](http://wvsocialworkboard.org)

⁴ <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing--Investigations/Masters-Level-Social-Worker/Temporary-Permit#:~:text=The%20Department%20may%20issue%20a,yet%20taken%20the%20licensure%20examination.>

⁵ https://health.maryland.gov/botp/Pages/temporary_application.aspx

⁶ <https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/licensure-by-endorsement.aspx>