



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13th, 2024

SB106: State Board of Social Work Examiners - Board Membership and Certified Social Worker Licenses

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, Members of the Committee,

I am before you today to speak about SB106, a bill that clarifies the licensing of the State Board of Social Work Examiners, board membership, and certified social workers. It authorizes the board to include at least one member who is a licensed master social worker who is approved for independent practice. It makes clarifying changes and removes obsolete references to certified social workers' licenses, which are no longer issued.

This bill takes into account licensing changes and updating the statute regarding the State Board of Social Work Examiners. It also specifies that if a licensee of the specified license category is not appointed to the board within three months of a vacancy, a qualified licensee of any licensing category is otherwise qualified to be a member of the board.

SB106 is also aimed at ensuring the membership of the board is representative of social work licenses. Social workers approved for independent practice are at a similar level of licensure as a licensed certified social worker. They are required to complete the same number of supervision hours as the certified social worker to earn a license.

Today, you will hear from our expert witness, Adrienne Ekas, the Vice Chair of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners and Educational Representative to the board. In addition to her position on the Board, Ms. Ekas is the Assistant Dean for Field Education at the UMBC School of Social Work.

Thank you for your time today, and I urge a favorable report on SB106.