

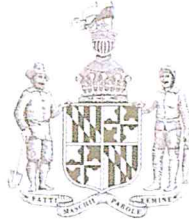
KENNETH P. KERR, ED.D
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 209
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3240 · 301-858-3240
800-492-7122 Ext. 3240
Ken.Kerr@house.state.md.us

District Office
4539 Metropolitan Court, Suite 257
Frederick, Maryland 21704
301-360-3505

Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 34 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Compacts in Maryland

In recent years, professions have been using interstate compacts to facilitate occupational licensing reciprocity among states. The Maryland General Assembly has passed similar compacts for other health occupations, including nurses, psychologists, licensed professional counselors, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists.

Purpose of Compact

The Social Work Licensure Compact goals are to:

- eliminate barriers to practice and to client care along with ensuring public protection
- give social workers mobility and support relocating military spouses
- improve access by consumers, and improve continuity of care when clients travel or relocate

Workforce Shortage

Importantly, a compact license gives employers the ability to recruit social workers from other states. This is certainly important when our neighboring states adopt this compact. It takes seven states to pass legislation to begin the implementation of the Compact. Missouri has already passed a bill, and Maryland is among 23 states with pending legislation. Other states with pending legislation include Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

In addition, Missouri and the next six states will become Charter Members of the Compact and members of the Commission that will govern the implementation of the Compact

Accountability

States gain a supplementary layer of oversight of social workers who may enter their state to practice. The data system will allow member states to verify instantaneously that social workers based in other states have met defined standards and competencies and are in good standing with other states' regulatory boards. The compact data system will help states better protect the public.