

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 751 (Delegate Hammen)
Health and Government Operations

**State Board of Social Work Examiners - Appointment of Board Members -
Vacancies**

This bill clarifies that, if a licensed certified social worker is not appointed to the State Board of Social Work Examiners within six months of a vacancy in the position set aside for those licensees, a qualified licensee of any license level must be appointed immediately.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill clarifies current law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The board consists of 11 members. At least four board members must be licensed certified social workers-clinical and one must be a licensed certified social worker. If a licensed social work associate or a licensed graduate social worker is not appointed to the board within six months of a vacancy, a qualified licensee of any license level must be appointed immediately.

Background: There are 11,712 licensed social workers in Maryland: 6,953 certified-clinical social workers; 2,721 graduate social workers; 1,444 associate social workers; and 594 certified social workers.

A 2002 full evaluation of the State Board of Social Work Examiners by the Department of Legislative Services reported that, although the board is required to have 11 members, it had never had its full complement of members. At the time of the report, the board had generally been operating with only nine members. Any board member absences made it difficult for the board to have a quorum for its meetings. By law, a quorum is required to do business. In this case, a quorum is six members.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 127 (Senator Hollinger) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Sunset Review: Evaluation of the State Board of Social Work Examiners*, October 2002, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2004
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510