

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 805

(Senator Hollinger)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

---

**State Board of Social Work Examiners - Various Licensing and Regulatory Requirements**

---

This bill makes various changes under the Maryland Social Workers Act.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill repeals the provision allowing a federal employee performing duties of that employment to choose to apply for a license from the State Board of Social Work Examiners. It also repeals the provision that an individual who possesses social work qualifications in another jurisdiction that are comparable to the board's qualifications does not need to apply to the board for licensure.

The bill allows applicants for board licensure or registration to have received the required degree from a program that is accredited by an organization equivalent to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and approved by the council.

The bill requires an individual who is licensed or registered to practice social work in another state and who is seeking a waiver of board examination requirements • to be of

good moral character; • meet qualifications comparable to the board’s qualifications; • be currently licensed or registered in another state; • have become licensed or registered in another state under requirements that are substantially equivalent to the board’s requirements; and • have become licensed or registered in the other state after passing an examination that is the same as the examination the applicant is seeking the waiver.

Additionally, the bill states that a majority of the appointed members (not the full authorized membership as currently required under statute) is a quorum.

**Current Law:** An individual must be licensed by the board before he/she may practice social work in the State. An individual must be licensed as a certified social worker-clinical before the individual may practice clinical social work in the State. This does not apply to an individual employed by a federal government agency while performing the duties of that employment, unless the individual chooses to apply for a license. An individual licensed as a social worker in another state who is responding to an emergency in Maryland also is exempt. Licensure and certification requirements also do not apply to an individual who is licensed to practice social work in any other state or who possesses social work qualifications in any other jurisdiction comparable to the board’s qualifications.

An applicant for licensure must have received the required degree from a program accredited by CSWE.

The board must waive the examination requirements for an applicant who is licensed or registered to practice social work in any other state. The board must grant the waiver only if the applicant pays the application fee, provides adequate evidence that the applicant meets the board’s qualifications and became licensed or registered in another state after passing an examination similar to the board’s examination, and did not previously receive a waiver of the examination requirement from the board.

A majority of the full authorized membership of the board is a quorum to do business.

**Background:** The board reports that foreign degrees are not directly evaluated by CSWE but that CSWE does accept and approve the evaluation of the International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2006  
mam/ljm Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 2006

---

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

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