

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 628

(Senators Dyson and Middleton)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Health Occupations - Licensure of Social Workers

This bill requires the Board of Social Work Examiners, when reviewing an application for licensure to practice social work, to notify each applicant whether he or she has been approved to take the licensure exam within 60 days after the application was submitted. In addition, the bill requires the board to establish a workgroup of interested stakeholders to examine licensure and reciprocity issues and report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Matters Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by January 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The board can establish the workgroup and handle the reporting requirement with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: When reviewing an application for licensure to practice social work, the board has to notify each applicant whether he or she has been approved to take the licensure exam within a reasonable timeframe as defined in regulations. Regulations require the board to notify the applicant within 60 days.

The board may grant an examination waiver only if the applicant is of good moral character, pays the required application fee, and provides evidence that he or she is

comparably qualified; is currently licensed or registered in another state; became licensed or registered in another state under requirements substantially equivalent to those in Maryland; and became licensed or registered in the other state after passing an exam that is the same as the one for which he or she is seeking a waiver. The applicant may only be granted a waiver if he or she has not previously received a board waiver.

Background: The board advises that, in 2008, it approved 1,032 new applicants to practice social work in the State. Although it does not track all the waivers it grants, the board is aware of 74 waivers granted to applicants who are licensed in other states.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None designated; however HB 510 is identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2009
ncs/mcr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 31, 2009

Analysis by: Sarah K. Volker

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