

**SB0871/593027/1**

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 871  
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, strike “**Examination**”; in line 12, strike “Examination”; strike beginning with “identify” in line 12 down through “requirement” in line 15 and substitute “make certain findings and recommendations regarding the licensure of social workers in the State”; and in line 16, strike “examinations” and substitute “requirements”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 23, strike “**10**” and substitute “**15 BUSINESS**”.

On page 6, in line 2, strike “Examination”; in line 4, after “Maryland” insert “who is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus”; in line 6, after “Delegates” insert “who is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus”; after line 13, insert:

“(7) the Executive Director of the State Board of Social Work Examiners, or the Executive Director’s designee;

(8) the Director of the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or the Director’s designee;

(9) one social worker who is deaf or hard of hearing and is familiar with the licensing process for deaf and hard of hearing social workers, designated by the Maryland Association of the Deaf;

(10) one representative of the NAACP Maryland State Conference, designated by the President of the NAACP Maryland State Conference;”;

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in lines 14, 17, 20, 23, and 25, strike “(7)”, “(8)”, “(9)”, “(10)”, and “(11)”, respectively, and substitute “(11)”, “(12)”, “(13)”, “(14)”, and “(15)”, respectively; and in line 31, after “Shore:” insert “and”.

On page 7, strike beginning with the semicolon in line 3 down through “University” in line 5.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 7, strike in their entirety lines 12 through 26, inclusive, and substitute:

“(f) To complete its work as required under this section, the Workgroup may:

(1) establish subgroups; or

(2) contract with an entity with expertise in analyzing assessment bias.

(g) The Workgroup shall:

(1) determine:

(i) whether to continue to use examinations developed by the Association of Social Work Boards as a requirement for a bachelor social worker license or a master social worker license;

(ii) whether to establish a temporary license for applicants for a bachelor social worker license or a master social worker license who, except for passing an examination required under Title 19, Subtitle 3 of the Health Occupations Article, meet the education and experience requirements for a license to practice bachelor social work or master social work under Title 19 of the Health Occupations Article;

(iii) how supervision may be provided to bachelor social worker licensees and master social worker licensees at no cost to the licensees;

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(iv) if the Workgroup determines under item (i) of this item that the examinations developed by the Association of Social Work Boards should not be used or under item (ii) of this item that temporary licenses should be established, whether additional experience or education requirements are necessary;

(v) a timeline for phasing in any determinations made under item (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of this item; and

(vi) an outline and timeline for conducting the study required in subsection (h) of this section; and

(2) (i) on or before September 1, 2023, submit a preliminary report of the findings and recommendations required under item (1)(i) through (iv) of this subsection to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article; and

(ii) on or before December 1, 2023, submit an interim report of the findings and recommendations required under item (1)(i) through (iv) of this subsection and the outlines and timelines required under item (1)(v) and (vi) of this subsection to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

(h) The Workgroup shall:

(1) examine each type of license established under Title 19 of the Health Occupations Article by:

(i) conducting a bias analysis of the qualifications for each type of license;

(Over)

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(ii) determining whether each type of license is necessary;

(iii) identifying alternatives to examination requirements that may be used to assess an applicant’s qualifications for each type of license;

(iv) considering examination testing options, including the development of a State-based competency examination, minimum requirements for a national examination to be approved for State applicants, utilization of ranges of examination scores, and other policies to ensure a bias-free examination;

(v) identifying barriers in addition to the examination that present challenges to licensure in the State; and

(vi) identifying the circumstances under which unlicensed individuals work in State and federal government positions as social workers; and

(2) on or before December 1, 2024, report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on its:

(i) findings under item (1) of this subsection; and

(ii) recommendations to eliminate bias and make the process for licensing social workers in the State more fair, diverse, and efficient.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 8, strike beginning with “That” in line 15 down through “effect” in line 18 and substitute “That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective through June 30, 2025, and, at the end of June 30, 2025,

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Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect”.