

HOUSE BILL 769

J2
HB 1521/25 – HGO

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr2762
CF SB 18

By: Delegates Woods, Cullison, Bhandari, Coley, Fair, J. Long, Martinez, Roberson, Roberts, Simmons, Taylor, and Toles Toles, Alston, Bagnall, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Lopez, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Social Work Examiners – ~~Conditional~~ Provisional License to**
3 **Practice Social Work – ~~Revisions~~ Established**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~altering the circumstances under which the Board of Social Work~~
5 ~~Examiners may issue a conditional license to practice social work;~~ establishing
6 ~~alternate pathways~~ a provisional social work license through which an individual
7 issued a ~~conditional~~ provisional license may receive a full license; and generally
8 relating to licenses to practice social work.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Health Occupations
11 Section 19–101(a), ~~(e–1), and (e)~~ and (c–1)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health Occupations
16 Section ~~19–300.1~~ 19–101(e)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Health Occupations
 2 Section 19–101(o–1) and 19–309.2
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 6 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 **Article – Health Occupations**

8 19–101.

9 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (c–1) “Conditional license” means a license issued by the Board under, and as
 11 limited by, § 19–309.1 of this title to practice:

12 (1) Bachelor social work; or

13 (2) Master social work.

14 (e) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise:

15 (1) One of four categories of licenses issued by the Board authorizing an
 16 individual to practice:

17 (i) Bachelor social work;

18 (ii) Master social work;

19 (iii) Certified social work; or

20 (iv) Certified social work–clinical; ~~or~~

21 (2) A conditional license issued by the Board; **OR**

22 **(3) A PROVISIONAL LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD.**

23 **(O–1) “PROVISIONAL LICENSE” MEANS A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD**
 24 **UNDER, AND AS LIMITED BY, § 19–309.2 OF THIS TITLE TO PRACTICE:**

25 **(1) BACHELOR SOCIAL WORK; OR**

26 **(2) MASTER SOCIAL WORK.**

27 **19–309.2.**

1 **(A) BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2026, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A**
2 **PROVISIONAL LICENSE TO AN APPLICANT WHO, EXCEPT FOR PASSING THE**
3 **EXAMINATION OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, HAS MET THE**
4 **APPROPRIATE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE**
5 **FOR A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO PRACTICE:**

6 **(1) BACHELOR SOCIAL WORK; OR**

7 **(2) MASTER SOCIAL WORK.**

8 **(B) A PROVISIONAL LICENSE:**

9 **(1) AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE**
10 **STATE ONLY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF LICENSE ISSUED**
11 **BY THE BOARD;**

12 **(2) REQUIRES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE UNDER THE SUPERVISION**
13 **OF A BOARD-APPROVED SUPERVISOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS**
14 **ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION;**

15 **(3) MAY BE ISSUED ONLY TO AN INITIAL APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE**
16 **WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN LICENSED UNDER THIS TITLE; AND**

17 **(4) DOES NOT QUALIFY THE HOLDER FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE**
18 **UNDER THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT ESTABLISHED UNDER § 19-3A-01**
19 **OF THIS TITLE.**

20 **(C) A PROVISIONAL LICENSE:**

21 **(1) EXPIRES ON A DATE SET BY THE BOARD THAT IS AT LEAST 12**
22 **MONTHS, BUT NOT MORE THAN 24 MONTHS, AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE;**

23 **(2) MAY BE RENEWED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM NOT EXCEEDING 24**
24 **MONTHS; AND**

25 **(3) SHALL TERMINATE AUTOMATICALLY ON:**

26 **(I) THE EXPIRATION DATE; OR**

27 **(II) IF THE HOLDER APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR A LICENSE**
28 **UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE DATE THAT THE FULL LICENSE IS**
29 **ISSUED.**

1 (D) A HOLDER OF A PROVISIONAL LICENSE AND THE SUPERVISING SOCIAL
2 WORKER ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE
3 SUPERVISION AND EXPIRATION REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (B)(2) AND (C) OF
4 THIS SECTION.

5 (E) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A FULL LICENSE UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS
6 SUBTITLE TO A HOLDER OF A PROVISIONAL LICENSE WHO DEMONSTRATES TO THE
7 SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE HOLDER HAS ACHIEVED A SATISFACTORY
8 SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION, AS REQUIRED UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

9 (F) SUPERVISED HOURS COMPLETED UNDER A PROVISIONAL LICENSE:

10 (1) MAY BE COUNTED TOWARD THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE
11 REQUIRED FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE APPROVAL UNDER § 19-302(F) OF THIS
12 SUBTITLE; AND

13 (2) MAY BE COUNTED TOWARD THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE
14 REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER-CLINICAL LICENSE
15 UNDER § 19-302(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

16 (G) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION,
17 INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:

18 (1) MINIMUM SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING
19 PROCEDURES;

20 (2) STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING SUPERVISED PRACTICE AS
21 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION;

22 (3) REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE TRACKING OF
23 PROVISIONAL LICENSES ALIGNS WITH EXISTING LICENSURE CYCLES; AND

24 (4) A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PROVISIONAL
25 LICENSE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

26 (H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE
27 BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE
28 HEALTH COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
29 ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
30 12-MONTH PERIOD:

31 (1) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE LICENSEES WHO WERE LICENSED
32 WITHOUT PASSING THE EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND THE
33 AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS THOSE LICENSEES HAVE PRACTICED IN THE STATE;

1 ~~(3) SHALL TERMINATE AUTOMATICALLY ON:~~

2 ~~(I) THE EXPIRATION DATE; OR~~

3 ~~(II) IF THE HOLDER APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR A LICENSE~~
4 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE DATE THAT THE FULL LICENSE IS~~
5 ~~ISSUED.~~

6 ~~(D) A HOLDER OF A CONDITIONAL LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION AND THE~~
7 ~~SUPERVISING SOCIAL WORKER ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING~~
8 ~~COMPLIANCE WITH THE SUPERVISION AND EXPIRATION REQUIREMENTS OF~~
9 ~~SUBSECTIONS (B)(2) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION.~~

10 ~~(E) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A FULL LICENSE UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS~~
11 ~~SUBTITLE TO A HOLDER OF A CONDITIONAL LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION WHO~~
12 ~~DEMONSTRATES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE HOLDER HAS:~~

13 ~~(1) ACHIEVED A SATISFACTORY SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION, AS~~
14 ~~REQUIRED UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR~~

15 ~~(2) COMPLETED AT LEAST 1,500 HOURS OF SUPERVISED~~
16 ~~EXPERIENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK DURING THE PERIOD OF~~
17 ~~CONDITIONAL LICENSURE, AS VERIFIED BY A BOARD APPROVED SUPERVISOR, IN~~
18 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD, IN CONSULTATION~~
19 ~~WITH AN INSTITUTION THAT:~~

20 ~~(I) IS ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK~~
21 ~~EDUCATION OR AN EQUIVALENT ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON~~
22 ~~SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION; AND~~

23 ~~(II) OFFERS BOTH A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AND A MASTER'S~~
24 ~~DEGREE.~~

25 ~~(F) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION,~~
26 ~~INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:~~

27 ~~(1) MINIMUM SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING~~
28 ~~PROCEDURES;~~

29 ~~(2) STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING SUPERVISED PRACTICE AS~~
30 ~~DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION;~~

~~(3) REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE TRACKING OF
CONDITIONAL LICENSES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION ALIGNS WITH EXISTING
LICENSURE CYCLES; AND~~

~~(4) A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CONDITIONAL
LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SUFFICIENT TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE
COSTS.~~

~~[(d)] (c) On or before December 31 each year, beginning in [2024,] 2026, the
Board shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and
Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government
Article, the following information for the immediately preceding 12-month period:~~

~~(1) Whether the examination was unavailable at any time during the
reporting period; and~~

~~(2) If the examination was unavailable:~~

~~(i) The number of applicants who were eligible for a conditional
license due to the unavailability of the examination;~~

~~(ii) The number of applicants who applied to take the examination;~~

~~(iii) The number of applications that were delayed in processing; and~~

~~(iv) The number of conditional licenses issued under this section.]~~

~~(1) THE NUMBER OF CONDITIONAL LICENSES ISSUED UNDER THIS
SECTION;~~

~~(2) THE NUMBER OF HOLDERS OF CONDITIONAL LICENSES WHO
OBTAINED FULL LICENSURE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

~~(3) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING:~~

~~(i) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

~~(ii) THE IMPACT OF THIS SECTION ON THE HEALTH CARE
WORKFORCE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea 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.