

SENATE BILL 18

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EMERGENCY BILL
(PRE-FILED)

6lr1159
CF HB 769

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Requested: October 10, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Reassigned: Finance, January 16, 2026

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 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), ~~(c-1)~~, and ~~(c)~~ 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 ~~19-309.1~~ 19-101(e)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Health Occupations

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

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

6 **Article – Health Occupations**

7 19–101.

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

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

11 (1) Bachelor social work; or

12 (2) Master social work.

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

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

16 (i) Bachelor social work;

17 (ii) Master social work;

18 (iii) Certified social work; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 **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 NOT BE RENEWED; AND

24 (3) SHALL TERMINATE AUTOMATICALLY ON:

25 (I) THE EXPIRATION DATE; OR

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

29 (D) A HOLDER OF A PROVISIONAL LICENSE AND THE SUPERVISING SOCIAL
30 WORKER ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE

1 SUPERVISION AND EXPIRATION REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (B)(2) AND (C) OF
2 THIS SECTION.

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

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

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

11 (2) MAY NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE
12 REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER-CLINICAL LICENSE
13 UNDER § 19-302(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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

16 (1) MINIMUM SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING
17 PROCEDURES;

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

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

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

24 (H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2026, THE
25 BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE
26 HEALTH COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
27 ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
28 12-MONTH PERIOD:

29 (1) THE NUMBER OF PROVISIONAL LICENSES ISSUED;

30 (2) THE NUMBER OF HOLDERS OF PROVISIONAL LICENSES WHO
31 OBTAINED FULL LICENSURE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND

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

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

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

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

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

18 ~~(i) IS ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK~~
19 ~~EDUCATION OR AN EQUIVALENT ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON~~
20 ~~SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION; AND~~

21 ~~(ii) OFFERS BOTH A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AND A MASTER'S~~
22 ~~DEGREE.~~

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

25 ~~(1) MINIMUM SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING~~
26 ~~PROCEDURES;~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 ~~(I) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

22 ~~(II) THE IMPACT OF THIS SECTION ON THE HEALTH CARE~~
23 ~~WORKFORCE.~~

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
25 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
26 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
27 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
28 enacted.