

## **10 - SB 597 - EHEA - Social Work - LOS.pdf**

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Position: FAV



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

**Board of Social Work Examiners**  
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 318  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
Phone: 410-764-4788

## **2021 SESSION POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO: SB 597**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**POSITION: Support**

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**TITLE: State Board of Social Work Examiners – Revisions**

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill requires that certain individuals employed by federal agencies to comply with certain provisions of the law; establishes that an applicant obtain a certified social worker license to meet certain requirements by December 21, 2023; alters the number of hours of supervision an applicant for a certified social worker-clinical license is required to complete; prohibiting a licensed master social worker or a licensed certified social worker from engaging in private practice; replacing the “social worker rehabilitation committee” with the “social worker rehabilitation process”; repealing references to the obsolete license category of licensed graduate social worker; etc.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) supports SB 597.

This bill presents the recommendations of the Board following a comprehensive review of the Board’s statute. This includes the removal of dates that are no longer relevant and updated dates throughout the statute; the incorporation of the term “behavioral health” to replace the word “mental” where appropriate; the deletion of the category of Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) which no longer exists; the reduction of the number of required supervised clinical practice hours from 144 to 100 to conform to the number of hours required by neighboring states (such as DC, Virginia, Delaware and New York); the change of the Social Work Rehabilitation Committee (obsolete) to the Social Work Rehabilitation Process; a change in the maximum fine to reflect an increased limit consistent with other State laws that have previously raised the level of the fine; a delay in the requirement for criminal background checks from 2021 to 2023; correcting the name of this act from the “Maryland Social Worker’s Act” to the “Maryland Social Workers Practice Act”; and making other clarifying changes to correct obsolete language .

In general, the Board believes the changes reflect current practice, will facilitate mobility for

social workers practicing in neighboring states, and will give additional time to social workers to complete criminal background checks.

For these reasons, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners requests a favorable report on SB 597. For more information, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Dr. Stanley E. Weinstein at 410-764-4722 or Stanley.Weinstein@maryland.gov.

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration*

# **SB0597\_FAV\_MdCSWC\_State Board of Social Work Exami**

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FAV



## The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Mary Washington

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 16, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 597 – *State Board of Social Work Examiners – Revisions*

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The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdCSWC, we **support** Senate Bill 597.

Advanced by the Board of Social Work Examiners, Senate Bill 597 proposes several technical and clarifying amendments to the current statutory structure that governs the licensure and certification of social workers. MdCSWC appreciates the Board's early engagement of the Coalition in discussing the proposed amendments reflected in this legislation. We worked collaboratively with the Board and other stakeholders to come to consensus on the language reflected in the legislation and urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: [www.gwscsw.org](http://www.gwscsw.org)

**Contacts:** Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: [jg708@columbia.edu](mailto:jg708@columbia.edu); mobile (301) 717-1004  
Legislative Consultant: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer, Schwartz, Metz & Wise PA, 20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Email: [pmetz@smwpa.com](mailto:pmetz@smwpa.com); mobile (410) 746-9003

## **Testimony on SB 597-2021.pdf**

Uploaded by: McClellan, Daphne

Position: FAV

**February 16, 2021**

**Support for SB 597**

**Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**State Board of Social Work Examiners - Revisions**

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), we would like to express our support for Senate Bill 597- State Board of Social Work Examiners - Revisions

This bill makes a number of revisions to the Social Work Practice Act.

NASW-MD, is the professional association which represents social workers in Maryland. There were some provisions in the original draft of the bill which concerned us. However, the bill sponsor brought the interested parties together and we appreciate the Board of Social Work Examiners for listening to our concerns and amending the original draft.

We believe that the current bill makes revisions which will be helpful and clarifying to our Practice Act and we are pleased to support it.

**We urge the committee to vote in favor of SB 597!**

Thank you,

Daphne L. McClellan, PhD, MSW  
Executive Director  
NASW-Maryland Chapter

# **SB597 State Board of Social Work Examiners – Revis**

Uploaded by: Postmus, Judy

Position: FAV



Written Testimony in Favor of SB 597 State Board of Social Work Examiners – Revisions  
on behalf of Dean Postmus, University of Maryland School of Social Work  
Hearing date: February 16, 2021

Thank you Senator Pinsky, Senator Kagan, and all the members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. The University of Maryland, School of Social Work is providing this written testimony in support of Senator Washington's SB 597, which amends the Maryland Social Work Licensing Statute in approximately twelve ways. We support the efforts of the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) who are proposing these changes.

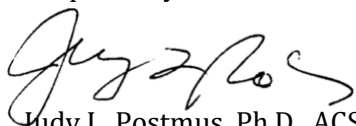
Many of the proposed changes, while not substantive, do reflect the advances in the behavioral health context and provide helpful updates. They include: changing the reference to the different licenses as "categories" instead of types of social work licenses; removing outdated references to the term "graduate" social work; substituting the word "mental" with the term "behavioral health"; replacing the reference to the definitions in Md. Health General Code Ann. § 10-101 with the definitions in Md. Health General Code Ann. § 7.5-101 which includes a more comprehensive list of behavioral health disorders; changing the Social Worker Rehabilitation "Committee" to the Social Worker Rehabilitation "Process" to allow for greater flexibility by the BSWE when responding to complaints; reinforcing that the practice of social work is theory, knowledge, procedures, methods AND ethics; and increasing fines for violations to \$10,000 as the BSWE did to many other violations through past legislation.

Two other proposed changes would align Maryland statute more consistently with other licensing laws in surrounding states by phasing out the LCSW license in 2023 and reducing the number of required number of hours from 144 to 100 for a LMSW working toward the LCSW-C license. These changes will provide reciprocity and consistency among the states.

We are unclear of the changes they wish to make (page 9 line 5) for the Board Approved Supervisors process because this bill only identifies they will "approve license to provide supervision IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS." We trust the regulations they plan to draft will be in agreement with the statute.

We graduate on average 450 graduate MSWs each year and we represent an extensive, skilled, and dedicated workforce of social workers in Maryland. Social workers practicing in Maryland rely on a licensing statute which reflects the high standards of our profession with clarity and consistency. We appreciate the efforts of our BSWE and support SB 597.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy L. Postmus, Ph.D., ACSW  
Dean & Professor

# **SB0597-333821-01 2-11.pdf**

Uploaded by: griffin, christine

Position: FWA



**SB0597/333821/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

11 FEB 21  
17:54:57

BY: Senator Washington

(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 597

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 11, after “practice;” insert “altering the year beginning in which a certain licensee seeking renewal of the license is required to attest that the licensee has submitted to a certain criminal history records check;”; and in line 22, strike “19–308(d)(4)” and substitute “19–308(d)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 11, after line 23, insert:

“(1) Otherwise is entitled to be licensed;

(2) Pays to the Board the appropriate renewal fee specified by this subtitle;

(3) Submits to the Board:

(i) A renewal application on the form that the Board requires;  
and

(ii) Satisfactory evidence of compliance with any continuing education requirement set under this section for license renewal; and”;

in line 24, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “2021” and substitute “**2023**”;  
and in the same line, strike “**EXCEPT**”.

# **Sen Washington Written Testimony SB597.pdf**

Uploaded by: griffin, christine

Position: FWA

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D  
Legislative District 43  
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

*Chair*  
Joint Committee on Ending  
Homelessness

*Chair*  
Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**SUPPORT – SB 597**  
**State Board of Social Work Examiners - Revisions**  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
February 16, 2021  
Testimony of Senator Mary Washington

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to vote favorable with amendments on Senate Bill 597, which makes several necessary changes to the Maryland Social Workers Act.

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners recently completed a comprehensive review of the Board's statute. The following are the Board-approved changes to the current statute:

- (1) The removal of dates that are no longer relevant and the addition of updated dates throughout the statute;
- (2) The incorporation of the term "behavioral health" to replace the word "mental" where appropriate;
- (3) The deletion of language for the category of licensed graduate social workers (LGSW), which no longer exists;
- (4) Changing the 3 designated Board seats, as currently stated under Health Occupations Article § 19-202(a)(2)(i)1–3, Annotated Code of Maryland, to be licensed social workers of any licensed category;
- (5) Reduce the number of required supervised clinical practice hours from 144 to 100 to conform to the number of hours required by neighboring states (such as DC, Virginia, Delaware and New York);
- (6) The Social Worker Rehabilitation Committee, which is currently obsolete, has been changed to the Social Worker Rehabilitation Process;
- (7) Under Health Occupations Article § 19-407, Annotated Code of Maryland, the maximum fine was amended to reflect an increased limit on the possibility of a fine for

conviction of a licensee consistent with other State laws that have previously raised the level of the fine;

(8) a delay in the requirement for criminal background checks from 2021 to 2023;

(9) Correct the name of this act from the “Maryland Social Workers Act” to the “Maryland Social Workers Practice Act”; and

(10) Make other clarifying changes to correct obsolete language.

With the support and input of the Board in drafting this bill, I believe the changes reflect current practice, will facilitate mobility for social workers practicing in neighboring states, and will give additional time for social workers to complete criminal background checks.

For these reasons, I ask you for a favorable report on SB597.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington", with a stylized, flowing script.

Senator Mary Washington, District 43, Baltimore City