



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdcSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Mary Washington

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

DATE: March 10, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 872 – *State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdcSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdcSWC, we **oppose** Senate Bill 872.

Senate Bill 872 would authorize the State Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) to issue a temporary license to practice social work to an applicant who, except for passing an examination otherwise required under law, has met the appropriate education and experience requirements for a license issued to practice master social work or certified social work-clinical.

We do understand the need for temporary licensure but instead support Senate Bill 145 and the supervision provision of that bill as it applies to bachelor social work or master social work.

The provision states:

A TEMPORARY LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE STATE ONLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A BOARD-APPROVED SUPERVISOR WHILE THE TEMPORARY LICENSE IS EFFECTIVE.

Further, a license to practice certified social work-clinical is the highest level of licensure requiring the most education and supervision. Current statute requires 2 years as a licensee with supervised experience of at least 3,000 hours, of which 1,500 hours are in face-to-face client contact. Supervisory services are informed by advanced training, years of experience, and mastery of a range of competencies. Components of supervision include guided practice, preparation, cultural competencies, evidence-based practice, consultation, and legal and ethical issues. Senate Bill 872 would eliminate that valuable learning experience. For this reason, we urge an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

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