



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215

February 28, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1285 – Workers’ Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Social Workers

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

The State Board of Social Worker Examiners (the “Board”) is writing this Letter of Concern for HB 1285. While we support the expansion of services that a Licensed Clinical Social Worker or LCSW-C can provide, there is concern with the language on page 2, line 19: **“(A) To qualify for registration, a licensed social workers shall be: (1) certified as such by the state Board of Social Work Examiners; and (2) certified by the state Board of Social Work Examiners as having sufficient training and experience to provide vocational rehabilitation services.”**

Is this bill asking the Board to certify a Social Worker as a “Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist?” Or is this purely intended to add language that defines the type of work performed by a rehabilitation practitioner? The bill is unclear. If passed, a concern of the Board is what impact this will have on our Board. Will the Board be burdened with determining which licensees have the “sufficient training and experience?”

Again, we understand that this will open additional career opportunities in the rehabilitation field for Licensed Clinical Social Workers. However, this could open additional work for an already overtaxed Board staff.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests that the Committee vote unfavorably on HB 1285.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. For more information, please contact me at 410-740-4722 or at karen.richards2@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,

Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director

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