

March 7, 2025

Maryland General Assembly
Delegates C.T. Wilson Chair, and Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Delegate Susan McComas, Sponsor
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1404 Workers Compensation –Rehabilitation Practitioners-
Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical

POSITION: FAVORABLE – STRONGLY SUPPORT

Dear Delegate Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Disclaimer: The opinions concerning HB-1404 are my own and do not represent those of any other person, individual, Government Agency, for or not for profit corporation or organization. I am registered with the Workers Compensation Commission (G-0235) as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

I reviewed the requirements for the Workers Compensation Commission –Vocational Rehabilitation:

There are 3 categories listed under Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Registered Practitioner's Lists:

VR Counselors, Nurse Case Managers, PTs and OTs. (See attachment). The Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical is not listed. Licensed Social Workers (all categories of Social Work licensure) who voluntarily register with the Workers Compensation Commission are grouped together under Practitioners Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors by name only; the Professional license category is not identified after the VR Practitioners name. However, L&E 9-6A-04 affirms the right to practice within the full scope of the practitioner's license per the Health Occupations Article. Therefore, by not identifying the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Occupation, the public is not aware of the full range of services the Practitioner may provide for the injured worker.

The only exception(s) to this are Nurses, Physical Therapists, and Occupational therapists who are listed separately under Vocational Rehabilitation Practitioners.

Therefore, this legislation is requested to identify and acknowledge the occupation of the Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical, and the full Scope of as defined in HO-19-101. Et.al. and 19-103 Scope of Title (5) (ii). COMAR Title 14 –Subtitle 09, Chapter 08; Authority: L&E Article Sec. 9-309, 9-663, 9-731 affirms the recognition of the LCSW-C).

This proposed legislation does not expand nor authorize the LCSW-C to engage in any actions not currently authorized in the Social Work Statute or by the Workers Compensation Commission. The purpose of the legislation is to make it easier for the public, and the Commission to identify and use the services the LCSW-C registered with the Commission and who complies with all requirements of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Workers Compensation Commission. This legislation has no effect on any other category of Social Work licensee.

Sincerely,


Arthur Flax, LCSW-C, WCC-VR G-0235
410-653-6300
flaxcps@gmail.com

Attachments: Testimony

Exhibit 1. HO-19-101 et.al.; Exhibit 2.WCC List Profession; 3. WCC list of VR Practitioners; 4. WCC Title 14; 5. CMS final Rule; 6. Atty. Gen. Ultimate Issue.