



Board of Social Work EXAMINER

ASWB is More Than the Exam

The Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) has been a member of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) since 1974. ASWB is the *nonprofit* organization composed of the social work regulatory boards and colleges of all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and all 10 Canadian provinces.

Their mission is to *provide support and services to the social work regulatory community to advance safe, competent, and ethical practices to strengthen public protection.* The vision is that *all social workers are licensed.* This vision is rooted in the work Social Workers including those in Maryland have done over the years to elevate the professional standards of Social Work.

BSWE doesn't just send licensees to ASWB for the exam. We rely on ASWB to provide training to our new Board Members. As a member of ASWB, we are able to send our Board members to these trainings at NO cost to our Board. This training is valuable in helping Board members make the connection between the Social Work Practice Act and protecting the public.

Training is just one benefit BSWE receives as a member of ASWB. In addition, our Continuing Education audits are conducted through ASWB. We also use the Public Protection Database to refer Maryland Social Workers who receive a public sanction.

In response to the exam data released in 2022, ASWB has worked on initiatives designed to reduce barriers and offer support to test takers. Click on this link to see a snapshot of some of these exam initiatives:

[ASWB Exam Initiatives](#)

March 2025: Issue IV

Happening at the Board Upcoming Open Session Meetings:

3/14/2025 Room 110

4/11/2025 Virtual

5/9/2025 Room 110

6/13/2025 Virtual

In person meetings are held at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215 in Room 110. Meetings start at 10:30am and generally conclude by 12pm.

If a member of the public has a question for the Open Session, please submit prior to the meeting via email to:

*Board Chair: Susan Coppage
susan.coppage@maryland.gov*

SUPERVISION POINTERS:

True or False

“I have finished my 100 hours of supervision and it has been 2 years. Therefore, I am finished with the requirements until I take the test”.

False. You must continue to be under a contract with a Board Approved Supervisor and receive supervision **until you pass the test and are an LCSW-**

ASWB funds numerous social work research projects:

[ASWB Research Initiatives](#)

Practice Analysis is a critical component for ensuring the content of each licensing exam remains relevant to current professional practice. In addition, the analysis reflects expertise from a diverse group of stakeholders.

ASWB conducted the most recent practice analysis from March to June 2024 as part of the [Social Work Census](#), an initiative led by a group of social work organizations comprising the [Social Work Workforce Coalition](#). Data scientists and researchers are currently analyzing the findings from the 2024 practice analysis; these will be used as the basis for questions on the next iteration of competence assessments launching in 2026.

ASWB just released the 2024 Analysis of the Practice of Social Work

[2024 Analysis of the Practice of Social Work](#)

Test questions are worked on by Social Work volunteers – NOT ASWB staff. Please check out the 2024 [ASWB's Exam Program Yearbook](#), which highlights the diverse group of social workers and subject matter experts responsible for writing, reviewing, and approving questions for use on the licensing exams.

Again, if accommodations are needed to take the exam, learn more about nonstandard testing arrangement by clicking on these links: [nonstandard testing arrangements](#), including [English as a second language arrangements](#). Use this link to find the form to make a request: [Request for nonstandard testing arrangements form](#)

The [Social Work Licensure Compact](#) is being sponsored by the Department of Defense, in partnership with ASWB and the Council of State Governments (CSG). 22 states including Virginia have already joined the Compact. Maryland has legislation pending in the current legislative session. House Bill 345 and Senate Bill 174 are sponsored by NASW-MD and supported by BSWE. We have heard from many licensees who are in favor of this bill. To check the status, click on this link to the Maryland General Assembly webpage to take you to the status page for HB345. SB174 is currently being viewed in the Senate.

[MD HB345 - Social Work Compact](#)

C licensee. I should have written "a"

"I am an LMSW and am switching agencies. I can keep my same Board Approved Supervisor if we complete a new contract and my agency is aware of the relationship"

True. You may have an independent Board Approved Supervisor but a new contract must be completed for the new workplace and your agency must be agreeable. "

"I am an LMSW and have begun a job that does not provide a Board Approved Supervisor. I can practice until I obtain one."

False. All LMSW licensees must be supervised by a Maryland Board Approved Supervisor to practice unless they have Independent Practice status. Please note that Independent Practice Status does not allow you to practice clinical social work.

"If I am an LBSW or LMSW licensee, Independent Practice Status is something I can earn after many years of practice."

False. Independent Practice requires an application, documentation of practice and approval by the Board. **It only allows for non-clinical practice** and has various requirements based on how long you have been practicing. Once approved, you may practice without

Happy Social Work Month!



supervision. However, the only licensees that may practice clinical social work without supervision is the LCSW-C license. For more information: [Independent Practice Status](#)

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners serves over 19,000 licensees. The Board is mandated to Maryland Statutes and Regulations.

True. The Board serves applicants and licensees. Licensees should familiarize themselves with Statutes and Regulations as it is what governs the Board and Social Work practice in Maryland. [Statutes & Regulations](#)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Make sure you keep your information with the Board up to date. Click on the link below to submit your change of address:

[Address Change](#)

Click on this link to change your name:

[Name Change](#)

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