

Workgroup for Social Work Licensure Requirements

Date: January 29, 2025 **Time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rso-bhjm-uqe>

Or dial: (US) +1 347-762-8966 PIN: 856 535 732#

Agenda

- I. Administrative Updates**
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Define Meeting Minutes
 - C. Vote on Meeting Minutes from 11/13 & 12/18
 - D. Final Report Update

- II. Discussion**
 - A. Senate Bill 379
 - 1. Senate Finance Committee Hearing
 - a) Witness Signup
 - B. Reorganization of Subgroups
 - C. Survey Options
 - 1. Format on proceeding with recommendations

- III. Public Comment**

- IV. Closing and Next Steps**
 - A. Presentation Requests
 - B. Credential Update Requests

- V. Upcoming Meeting Schedule**
 - A. February 26, 2025
 - B. March 26, 2025
 - C. April 30, 2025
 - D. May 28, 2025
 - E. June 25, 2025

SENATE BILL 379

J2

5lr1845

By: **Senators M. Washington, Benson, Lam, and Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Social Work Examiners – Membership and Examination**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the examination requirements for bachelor and master social
5 worker licenses; altering the number of consumer members on the State Board of
6 Social Work Examiners; and generally relating to the regulation of social workers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Health Occupations
9 Section 19–201, 19–301(a), and 19–302(b) and (c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health Occupations
14 Section 19–202(a)(1) and (2) and 19–302(a), (d), and (e)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Health Occupations**

20 19–201.

21 There is a State Board of Social Work Examiners in the Department.

22 19–202.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) The Board consists of [12] 14 members.

2 (2) Of the [12] 14 Board members:

3 (i) 10 shall be licensed social workers of whom:

4 1. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, 1 is a licensed
5 bachelor social worker;

6 2. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, 1 is a licensed
7 master social worker at the time of appointment;

8 3. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at least 1 is:

9 A. A licensed certified social worker; or

10 B. A licensed master social worker who is approved for
11 independent practice;

12 4. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at least 4 are
13 licensed certified social workers—clinical;

14 5. 1 is a licensed social worker employed by the Department
15 of Human Services; and

16 6. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, 1 is a licensed
17 social worker who is:

18 A. Primarily engaged in social worker education at a social
19 work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and

20 B. Nominated from a list of names submitted by the deans
21 and directors of the Maryland Social Work Education Programs; and

22 (ii) [2] 4 shall be consumer members.

23 19–301.

24 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual shall be:

25 (1) Licensed by the Board before the individual may practice social work in
26 this State while representing oneself as a social worker; or

27 (2) Licensed as a certified social worker—clinical before the individual may
28 practice clinical social work in this State.

29 19–302.

1 (a) To obtain a license, an applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the
2 Board that the applicant:

3 (1) Has submitted a complete written application in the form prescribed by
4 the Board;

5 (2) Is at least 18 years old;

6 (3) Is of good moral character;

7 [(4) Except as otherwise provided in this title, has successfully passed an
8 examination or examinations prescribed by the Board pertinent to the license sought;]

9 [(5)] (4) Has paid all applicable fees specified by the Board;

10 [(6)] (5) Has completed a criminal history records check in accordance
11 with § 19–302.2 of this subtitle at the applicant’s expense; and

12 [(7)] (6) Has submitted to an examination if required under § 19–302.3 of
13 this subtitle.

14 (b) To obtain a bachelor social worker license, an applicant shall:

15 (1) Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section; and

16 (2) Have received a baccalaureate degree in social work from a program
17 that is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work
18 Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council on Social Work
19 Education.

20 (c) To obtain a master social worker license, an applicant shall:

21 (1) Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section; and

22 (2) Have received a master’s degree from a program that is accredited or is
23 a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent
24 organization approved by the Council on Social Work Education.

25 (d) Except as provided in § 19–302.1 of this subtitle, to obtain a certified social
26 worker license, on or before December 31, 2023, an applicant shall:

27 (1) Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section;

1 (2) Have received a master's degree from a program accredited by the
2 Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council
3 on Social Work Education; [and]

4 **(3) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, HAVE**
5 **SUCCESSFULLY PASSED AN EXAMINATION OR EXAMINATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE**
6 **BOARD PERTINENT TO THE LICENSE SOUGHT; AND**

7 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Provide in a form prescribed by the Board, documentation of
8 having completed 2 years as a licensee with supervised experience of at least 3,000 hours
9 after receiving the master's degree with a minimum of 100 hours of periodic face-to-face
10 supervision in the practice of social work under the terms and conditions that the Board
11 determines by regulation.

12 (e) Except as provided in § 19-302.1 of this subtitle, to obtain a certified social
13 worker-clinical license, an applicant shall:

14 (1) Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section;

15 (2) Have received a master's degree in social work and documentation of
16 completion of 12 academic credits in clinical course work from a program accredited by the
17 Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council
18 on Social Work Education, with a minimum of 6 of the 12 academic credits obtained in a
19 master's degree program; [and]

20 **(3) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, HAVE**
21 **SUCCESSFULLY PASSED AN EXAMINATION OR EXAMINATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE**
22 **BOARD PERTINENT TO THE LICENSE SOUGHT; AND**

23 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Provide in a form prescribed by the Board, documentation of
24 having completed 2 years as a licensee with supervised experience of at least 3,000 hours,
25 of which 1,500 hours are in face-to-face client contact, after receiving the master's degree
26 with a minimum of 100 hours of periodic face-to-face supervision in the assessment,
27 formulation of a diagnostic impression, and treatment of behavioral health disorders and
28 other conditions and the provision of psychotherapy under the terms and conditions that
29 the Board determines by regulation.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2025.

Bill Status - SB 379

Senate Finance Committee Hearing

- **Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 1:00 PM
- **Location:** West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD
- **Oral Testimony:** If you wish to provide oral testimony, please register through [MyMGA](#) and sign up as a Witness. **Sign-up to testify** is due on **Friday, January 31, 2025, by 6:00 PM**
- **Written Testimony:** Written testimony should be submitted through [MyMGA](#) on **Friday, January 31, 2025, by 6:00 PM**

You can choose to provide **oral testimony only, written testimony only, or both.**

House Committee Hearing

- **Date:** To Be Determined



MARYLAND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2025 WITNESS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

I. Bill Hearings

- All bill hearings will take place in person in the committee room and will be streamed live via the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) Website.
- The committee traditionally hears bills on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- All scheduled bill hearings will be posted in the MGA hearing schedule. Please check the schedule periodically for the most up-to-date information.
- The bill order will be posted in the MGA hearing schedule by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled bill hearings. The committee chair will also announce the bill order at the beginning of each bill hearing, but the order remains at the discretion of the chair.
- **To register to provide oral testimony or submit written testimony, individuals MUST create a MyMGA account* through the MGA website. [Click here for a tutorial.](#)**

*Please note, the MGA website does not support internet explorer. Please use another web browser to upload your written testimony.

- Oral testimony sign-up and written testimony submission will open two (2) business days in advance of the scheduled bill hearing and will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Bill Hearing Timeline

	<u>Monday Hearing</u>	<u>Tuesday Hearing</u>	<u>Wednesday Hearing</u>	<u>Thursday Hearing</u>	<u>Friday Hearing</u>
Oral Witness Sign-up and Written Testimony Submission	Thursday from 8AM - 6PM	Friday from 8AM - 6PM	Monday from 8AM - 6PM	Tuesday from 8AM - 6PM	Wednesday from 8AM - 6PM

Oral Testimony

- While witnesses are strongly encouraged to provide in-person oral testimony, to include as many citizens as possible in the legislative process, *up to 14* members of the public may provide virtual oral testimony via Zoom per bill.
- The committee may limit oral testimony based on the number of bills being heard and the number of witnesses signed up to testify. If that situation arises, the committee will notify witnesses.
- Witness testimony will be timed. Witnesses will have two-minutes (2:00) to provide oral testimony, unless a bill has more than 30 witnesses. **If a bill has more than 30 witnesses, each witness will have one-minute (1:00) to testify.**
- For bills the committee heard and voted out unanimously during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly, the committee will only hear oral testimony from the bill sponsor.
- For any other bills that the committee heard during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly, the committee will hear from two proponents and two opponents.
- Witnesses must designate whether they will testify in person or by Zoom. Witnesses may *not* change their oral testimony designation (virtual or in-person) after the sign-up system closes, even if they are not selected for virtual testimony.
- Witness testimony via pre-recorded video will not be allowed.
- Late witness sign-up will not be allowed.
- Witnesses who provide in-person oral testimony will be called to testify before witnesses providing testimony via Zoom. Any changes to this format will be at the discretion of the committee chair.
- Sponsors and witnesses are permitted to share an audio-visual presentation with the committee and are strongly encouraged to upload the presentation as written testimony. Requests to show an audio-visual presentation, must be made to the committee manager at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled bill hearing. **All audio-visual presentations must be received (via email) by the Committee Manager by 6:00 p.m. the day before the hearing.** For witnesses, the audio-visual presentation must fit within the two-minute allotted oral testimony time. Witnesses providing testimony via Zoom will not be permitted to show an audio-visual presentation during their testimony.
- Typically, committee members will ask questions after the conclusion of a witness's testimony. However, any changes to this format are at the discretion of the committee chair.

Zoom Instructions

- Zoom links will ONLY be sent to witnesses selected to testify who chose "virtual oral" or "virtual both" when they signed up to testify on a bill.

- Zoom links will be sent from noreply@mlis.state.md.us by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled bill hearing.
If a witness is NOT selected to testify, the witness will receive an email from noreply@mlis.state.md.us to inform the witness they were not selected.
- **The Zoom link is confidential and should not be shared.**
- Witnesses must log into Zoom with their first and last names so committee staff are able to quickly identify the user and admit them into the meeting at the appropriate time. Witnesses who do not log into Zoom with their first and last name may miss their opportunity to testify.
- Zoom witnesses should follow the hearings via the MGA website to know when the bill they are testifying on is going to be called by the committee chair and should log into Zoom when the bill before their bill is called.
- When testifying, witnesses must have their camera on.
- After the committee chair indicates that there are no further questions, the witness should exit the Zoom meeting, or they will be logged out by committee staff.

Written Testimony

- Any written testimony submitted to a committee is public testimony and therefore accessible to the public and cannot be removed.
- Written testimony MUST be in a PDF format to be uploaded.
- Late testimony will be accepted but will not be uploaded in advance of the bill hearing and will be marked as late. Please reach out to the Committee Manager on how to submit testimony.

Accommodations

- For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requests, please contact the committee directly.
- For an MGA sign language interpretation request, please request sign language interpretation at least 5 – 7 businesses days in advance of the event by filling out the following form: [Request Sign Language Interpretation Form](#). The committee will attempt to arrange interpreters on shorter notice but cannot guarantee availability; interpreters are not generally available on an emergency or short-notice basis.

II. Voting

- The committee voting schedule is at the discretion of the committee chair and will depend on the workload of the committee.

- Voting sessions and voting lists will be available in the MGA hearing schedule 24 hours in advance of a voting session, when feasible.
- All voting sessions will be live-streamed via the MGA website, when feasible.
- The committee will publish the outcome of a voting session in the MGA hearing schedule within 24 hours after a voting session and on the bill page on the MGA website after the committee reports out.

III. Public Bill Files

- The public can request an electronic copy of a public bill file by emailing the committee at AA_FIN@mlis.state.md.us.
 - Witness testimony and the oral witness list will be available the day after the bill is heard in committee.
 - Any additional materials will be available after the bill passes third reader on the Senate floor.
- Written testimony will also be available through the MGA website when the bill is on the Senate floor for second reader. For bills that do not pass out of a committee, written testimony will be available on the website after the legislative session.
- For bill files that are not available on the MGA website, please contact the Department of Legislative Services Library at 410-946-5400.

IV. General Policy and Procedures

- Late filed Senate bills will be sponsor only and may not be heard before crossover.
- House Bills:
 - In general, the committee does not hold hearings on House bills that have been cross-filed in the Senate.
 - Additionally, when the committee schedules a House bill for a public hearing, the committee will accept oral testimony *only* from the bill's sponsor UNLESS there is opposition. If there is opposition, the committee will hold a limited bill hearing.

For questions, please contact the Committee Manager,
Tammy Kraft at 410.841.3677 or tammy.kraft@mlis.state.md.us.