SENATE BILL 628

By: Senators Dyson and Middleton
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Health Occupations – Licensure of Social Workers

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Social Work Examiners to notify applicants for licensure whether the applicants have been approved to take a certain examination within a certain time period; altering certain requirements for a waiver of examination requirements for certain applicants who are licensed or registered to practice social work in other states; and generally relating to the licensure of social workers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 19–303 and 19–305
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

19–303.

(a) To apply for a license, an applicant shall:

(1) Submit an application to the Board on the form that the Board requires; and

(2) Pay to the Board the application fee set by the Board.

(b) The Board shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(1) Review each application; and

(2) Notify each applicant whether the applicant has been approved to take the pertinent licensure examination within [a reasonable time frame as defined in regulations] **30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE APPLICANT SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.**

19–305.

(a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board shall waive the examination requirements of this title for an applicant who is licensed or registered to practice social work in any other state.

(b) **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE** Board may grant a waiver under this section only if the applicant:

1. Is of good moral character;
2. Pays the application fee required by the Board under § 19–303 of this subtitle;
3. Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:
   1. Meets the qualifications comparable to those required by this title;
   2. Is currently licensed or registered in another state;
   3. HAS BEEN licensed or registered AND IN GOOD STANDING in another state [under requirements substantially equivalent to the requirements of this title] **FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS BEFORE THE DATE THE APPLICANT SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD;** and
   4. Became licensed or registered in the other state after passing in that or any other state an examination [that is the same as the examination for which the applicant is seeking the waiver] **TO BE LICENSED OR REGISTERED AS A SOCIAL WORKER;** and
   5. Did not previously receive a waiver of the examination requirement from the Board.

(C) **SUBSECTION (B)(3)(IV) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN APPLICANT WHO WAS LICENSED OR REGISTERED IN ANOTHER STATE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1991.**
SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.