

CHAPTER 87

(House Bill 510)

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~~ requiring the Board of Social Work Examiners to establish a workgroup consisting of a certain membership to examine certain issues affecting the status of the workforce and submit a report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; 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:
- (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 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE THE BOARD RECEIVED A COMPLETED APPLICATION FROM THE APPLICANT.

~~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) ~~[The] 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:~~

(i) ~~Meets the qualifications comparable to those required by this title;~~

(ii) ~~Is currently licensed or registered in another state;~~

(iii) ~~[Became] 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~~

(iv) ~~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~~

(4) ~~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 the Board of Social Work Examiners shall establish a workgroup consisting of Board members, representatives

of social worker associations, human service providers who employ social workers, and other interested stakeholders, to:

(1) examine and make recommendations on the licensure statute and the process by which licenses are issued;

(2) examine issues affecting the status of the workforce in the State, including examination requirements, reciprocity with other states, supervision requirements, and other relevant issues; and

(3) on or before January 1, 2010, report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2009.