

FACT SHEET

An Act to Modernize the Board of Registration of Social Workers

NASW Priority Legislation 2009-2010 Session

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Rodrigues and Sen. Morrissey
House Bill 174

Background

The Board of Registration of Social Workers is responsible for, among other things, hearing complaints made by consumers about social workers. NASW members have expressed concern that their cases are not being heard in a timely fashion because the licensing board has had difficulty raising a quorum. There have been prolonged vacancies on the Board, in part due to the nature of the requirements as outlined in the left-hand column below. The narrow and overlapping categories for Board membership in the current law, thought necessary thirty years ago when the law was enacted, no longer serve the public or the profession.

What this legislation would do

This legislation would modernize the social work licensing board by increasing the number of clinically trained social workers and expanding the Board's membership so it has the capacity to break down into committees, allowing cases to move more quickly. This is the model used successfully by the Board of Registration of Psychologists.

An Act to Modernize the Board of Registration of Social Workers would increase the number of members on the Social Work Licensing Board from 7 to 9 and change the composition of the board to reflect the right hand side of the chart below.

This legislation would also restate the Board's operating rules and procedures to make them consistent with other Boards of Registration in the Division of Professional Licensure.

Current SW Licensing Board ¹	NASW Legislative Proposal
1 LICSW 1 LCSW 1 LSW 1 LSWA 3 Public members	5 LICSW and LCSW members 1 LSW 1 LSWA 2 Public members
<i>Of the members required to be licensed:</i> -One social worker must be engaged in the field of social work education -One member shall be an active member of an organized labor organization representing social workers -One shall be minority as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services	<i>In addition:</i> - One member shall be an active member of an organized labor organization representing social workers - One member shall be from a minority group as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services
<i>In addition:</i> -One member of general public must also be minority -One public member shall be a consumer of social work services -No more than 4 members may belong to same political party	

For more information contact

Rebekah Gewirtz, NASW Director of Government Relations and Political Action 617.227.9635 x12 gewirtz@naswma.org
or Mary Ann Hart at mahcamb@aol.com.

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Updated: June-August 13, 2009

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Current SW Licensing Board	NASW Legislative Proposal
1 LICSW 1 LCSW 1 LSW 1 LSWA 3 Public members <i>Of the members required to be licensed:</i> -Three must have two years experience working in or consulting for an agency with an executive board comprised of community members. -One social worker must be engaged in the field of social work education -One member shall be an active member of an organized labor organization representing social workers -One shall be minority as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services <i>In addition Of the public members:</i> -One member of general public must also be minority -One public member shall be a consumer of social work services <i>In addition</i> -No more than four members of the board may belong to any one political party. No more than 4 members may belong to same	5-3 LICSW and 1 LCSW members 1 LSW 1 LSWA 2-2 Public members <i>In addition Additional requirements:</i> - One licensed member shall be an active member of an organized labor organization representing social workers - One Two members of the board shall be from a minority group as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services -No more than 6 members of the board may belong to any one political party

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political party

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Hart at mahcamb@aol.com.

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill No: H.174

Title: An Act To Modernize The Board Of Registration Of Social Workers

Sponsor: Rep. Michael J. Rodrigues

Committee: Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities

Hearing Date: 4/14/09

Similar Matters:

Prior History:

Current Law: Chapter 13, section 80, boards of registration; membership; appointment; qualification. Section 81, term, Section 84, meetings; election officers; license; fees; powers and duties.

Summary: This bill will expand and increase the number of clinically trained social workers on the Board of Registration of Social Workers from 7 to 9, all of whom shall be appointed by the governor and be a resident of the Commonwealth. Each member shall serve for a term of 3 years and not more than 2 full consecutive terms.

This legislation would also restate the Board's operating rules and procedures to make them consistent with other Boards of Registration in the Division of Professional Licensure. Licensing and application fees collected by the Board shall be as prescribed by the executive office of administration and finance pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7 and shall be deposited into the trust fund established in section 35V of chapter 10.

Staff: Ernestina Mendes

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill No: H.174

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Sponsor: Rep. Michael J. Rodrigues

Committee: Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities

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Staff: Ernestina Mendes

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill No: H 174

Title: An Act to Modernize the Board of Registration of Social Workers

Sponsor: Rep. Rodrigues

Committee: Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

Hearing Date: July 14th 2009, Hearing Room B-2, 10:00 am

Similar Matters: None

Prior History: None

Current Law: Section 80 to Section 84, inclusive, of Chapter 13 of the General Laws currently regulates the registration of social workers in the Commonwealth

Summary: This legislation seeks to:

- modernize the social work licensing board by increasing the number of clinically trained social workers and expanding the Board's membership so it has the capacity to break down into committees, allowing cases to move more quickly. This is the model used successfully by the Board of Registration of Psychologists.
- increase the number of members on the Social Work Licensing Board
- restate the Board's operating rules and procedures to make them consistent with other Boards of Registration in the Division of Professional Licensure.