

# SENATE BILL 18

J2

EMERGENCY BILL  
**ENROLLED BILL**  
— Finance/Health —

(6lr1159)

Introduced by **Senator M. Washington**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Social Work Examiners – ~~Conditional~~ Provisional License to**  
3 **Practice Social Work – Revisions Established**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~altering the circumstances under which the Board of Social Work~~  
5 ~~Examiners may issue a conditional license to practice social work;~~ establishing  
6 ~~alternate pathways~~ a provisional social work license through which an individual  
7 issued a ~~conditional~~ provisional license may receive a full license; and generally  
8 relating to licenses to practice social work.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Health Occupations  
11 Section 19–101(a), ~~(c–1)~~, and ~~(e)~~ and (c–1)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 2 Article – Health Occupations  
 3 Section ~~19–309.1~~ 19–101(e)  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 BY adding to  
 7 Article – Health Occupations  
 8 Section 19–101(o–1) and 19–309.2  
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Health Occupations**

14 19–101.

15 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (c–1) “Conditional license” means a license issued by the Board under, and as  
 17 limited by, § 19–309.1 of this title to practice:

18 (1) Bachelor social work; or

19 (2) Master social work.

20 (e) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise:

21 (1) One of four categories of licenses issued by the Board authorizing an  
 22 individual to practice:

23 (i) Bachelor social work;

24 (ii) Master social work;

25 (iii) Certified social work; or

26 (iv) Certified social work–clinical; ~~or~~

27 (2) A conditional license issued by the Board; **OR**

28 **(3) A PROVISIONAL LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD.**

1           (O-1) “PROVISIONAL LICENSE” MEANS A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD  
2 UNDER, AND AS LIMITED BY, § 19-309.2 OF THIS TITLE TO PRACTICE:

3           (1) BACHELOR SOCIAL WORK; OR

4           (2) MASTER SOCIAL WORK.

5 19-309.2.

6           (A) BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2026, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A  
7 PROVISIONAL LICENSE TO AN APPLICANT WHO, EXCEPT FOR PASSING THE  
8 EXAMINATION OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, HAS MET THE  
9 APPROPRIATE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE  
10 FOR A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO PRACTICE:

11           (1) BACHELOR SOCIAL WORK; OR

12           (2) MASTER SOCIAL WORK.

13           (B) A PROVISIONAL LICENSE:

14           (1) AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE  
15 STATE ONLY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF LICENSE ISSUED  
16 BY THE BOARD;

17           (2) REQUIRES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE UNDER THE SUPERVISION  
18 OF A BOARD-APPROVED SUPERVISOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS  
19 ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION;

20           (3) MAY BE ISSUED ONLY TO AN INITIAL APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE  
21 WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN LICENSED UNDER THIS TITLE; AND

22           (4) DOES NOT QUALIFY THE HOLDER FOR A MULTISTATE LICENSE  
23 UNDER THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT ESTABLISHED UNDER § 19-3A-01  
24 OF THIS TITLE.

25           (C) A PROVISIONAL LICENSE:

26           (1) EXPIRES ON A DATE SET BY THE BOARD THAT IS AT LEAST 12  
27 MONTHS, BUT NOT MORE THAN 24 MONTHS, AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE;

28           (2) MAY NOT BE RENEWED; AND

29           (3) SHALL TERMINATE AUTOMATICALLY ON:

1           **(I) THE EXPIRATION DATE; OR**

2           **(II) IF THE HOLDER APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR A LICENSE**  
3 **UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE DATE THAT THE FULL LICENSE IS**  
4 **ISSUED.**

5           **(D) A HOLDER OF A PROVISIONAL LICENSE AND THE SUPERVISING SOCIAL**  
6 **WORKER ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE**  
7 **SUPERVISION AND EXPIRATION REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (B)(2) AND (C) OF**  
8 **THIS SECTION.**

9           **(E) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A FULL LICENSE UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS**  
10 **SUBTITLE TO A HOLDER OF A PROVISIONAL LICENSE WHO DEMONSTRATES TO THE**  
11 **SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE HOLDER HAS ACHIEVED A SATISFACTORY**  
12 **SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION, AS REQUIRED UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

13           **(F) SUPERVISED HOURS COMPLETED UNDER A PROVISIONAL LICENSE:**

14           **(1) MAY BE COUNTED TOWARD THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE**  
15 **REQUIRED FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE APPROVAL UNDER § 19-302(F) OF THIS**  
16 **SUBTITLE; AND**

17           **(2) MAY ~~NOT~~ BE COUNTED TOWARD THE SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE**  
18 **REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER-CLINICAL LICENSE**  
19 **UNDER § 19-302(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

20           **(G) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION,**  
21 **INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:**

22           **(1) MINIMUM SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING**  
23 **PROCEDURES;**

24           **(2) STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING SUPERVISED PRACTICE AS**  
25 **DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION;**

26           **(3) REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE TRACKING OF**  
27 **PROVISIONAL LICENSES ALIGNS WITH EXISTING LICENSURE CYCLES; AND**

28           **(4) A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PROVISIONAL**  
29 **LICENSE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

30           **(H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN ~~2026~~ 2027,**  
31 **THE BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE**

HEALTH COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING  
12-MONTH PERIOD:

(1) THE NUMBER OF PROVISIONAL LICENSES ISSUED;

(2) THE NUMBER OF HOLDERS OF PROVISIONAL LICENSES WHO  
OBTAINED FULL LICENSURE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(3) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING:

(I) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION; AND

(II) THE IMPACT OF THIS SECTION ON THE HEALTH CARE  
WORKFORCE.

~~19-300.1.~~

~~(a) If an administrative delay for any reason or an unforeseen circumstance, act, or occurrence prevents an examination required under this subtitle from being available to an applicant for a period of at least 15 business days, the] THE Board [may] SHALL issue a conditional license to an applicant who, except for passing the examination OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, has met the appropriate education and experience requirements of this subtitle for a license issued under § 19-302 of this subtitle to practice:~~

~~(1) Bachelor social work; or~~

~~(2) Master social work.~~

~~(b) A conditional license issued under this section [authorizes]:~~

~~(1) AUTHORIZES the holder to practice social work in the State only  
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD;~~

~~(2) REQUIRES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE under the supervision of a  
Board approved supervisor [while the conditional license is effective] IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND~~

~~(3) MAY BE ISSUED ONLY TO AN INITIAL APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE  
WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN LICENSED UNDER THIS TITLE.~~

~~(e) A conditional license [is valid until 180 days after the examination becomes  
readily available to the applicant]:~~

1 ~~(1) EXPIRES ON A DATE SET BY THE BOARD THAT IS AT LEAST 12~~  
2 ~~MONTHS, BUT NOT MORE THAN 24 MONTHS, AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE;~~

3 ~~(2) MAY NOT BE RENEWED; AND~~

4 ~~(3) SHALL TERMINATE AUTOMATICALLY ON:~~

5 ~~(I) THE EXPIRATION DATE; OR~~

6 ~~(II) IF THE HOLDER APPLIES AND QUALIFIES FOR A LICENSE~~  
7 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE DATE THAT THE FULL LICENSE IS~~  
8 ~~ISSUED.~~

9 ~~(D) A HOLDER OF A CONDITIONAL LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION AND THE~~  
10 ~~SUPERVISING SOCIAL WORKER ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING~~  
11 ~~COMPLIANCE WITH THE SUPERVISION AND EXPIRATION REQUIREMENTS OF~~  
12 ~~SUBSECTIONS (B)(2) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION.~~

13 ~~(E) THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A FULL LICENSE UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS~~  
14 ~~SUBTITLE TO A HOLDER OF A CONDITIONAL LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION WHO~~  
15 ~~DEMONSTRATES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE HOLDER HAS:~~

16 ~~(1) ACHIEVED A SATISFACTORY SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION, AS~~  
17 ~~REQUIRED UNDER § 19-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR~~

18 ~~(2) COMPLETED AT LEAST 1,500 HOURS OF SUPERVISED~~  
19 ~~EXPERIENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK DURING THE PERIOD OF~~  
20 ~~CONDITIONAL LICENSURE, AS VERIFIED BY A BOARD APPROVED SUPERVISOR, IN~~  
21 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD, IN CONSULTATION~~  
22 ~~WITH AN INSTITUTION THAT:~~

23 ~~(I) IS ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK~~  
24 ~~EDUCATION OR AN EQUIVALENT ORGANIZATION APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON~~  
25 ~~SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION; AND~~

26 ~~(II) OFFERS BOTH A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AND A MASTER'S~~  
27 ~~DEGREE.~~

28 ~~(F) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION,~~  
29 ~~INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:~~

30 ~~(1) MINIMUM SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING~~  
31 ~~PROCEDURES;~~

1           ~~(2) STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING SUPERVISED PRACTICE AS~~  
2 ~~DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION;~~

3           ~~(3) REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE TRACKING OF~~  
4 ~~CONDITIONAL LICENSES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION ALIGNS WITH EXISTING~~  
5 ~~LICENSURE CYCLES; AND~~

6           ~~(4) A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CONDITIONAL~~  
7 ~~LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SUFFICIENT TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE~~  
8 ~~COSTS.~~

9           ~~[(d)](G) On or before December 31 each year, beginning in [2024,] 2026, the~~  
10 ~~Board shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and~~  
11 ~~Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government~~  
12 ~~Article, the following information for the immediately preceding 12-month period:~~

13           ~~(1) Whether the examination was unavailable at any time during the~~  
14 ~~reporting period; and~~

15           ~~(2) If the examination was unavailable:~~

16           ~~(i) The number of applicants who were eligible for a conditional~~  
17 ~~license due to the unavailability of the examination;~~

18           ~~(ii) The number of applicants who applied to take the examination;~~

19           ~~(iii) The number of applications that were delayed in processing; and~~

20           ~~(iv) The number of conditional licenses issued under this section.]~~

21           ~~(1) THE NUMBER OF CONDITIONAL LICENSES ISSUED UNDER THIS~~  
22 ~~SECTION;~~

23           ~~(2) THE NUMBER OF HOLDERS OF CONDITIONAL LICENSES WHO~~  
24 ~~OBTAINED FULL LICENSURE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

25           ~~(3) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING:~~

26           ~~(I) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

27           ~~(II) THE IMPACT OF THIS SECTION ON THE HEALTH CARE~~  
28 ~~WORKFORCE.~~

**SENATE BILL 18**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
2 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
3 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
4 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
5 enacted.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.