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BOARD BULLETIN

MINNESOTA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER



BOARD FEATURE

Legislation & Rules Committee Conducts “Deep Dive” of the Social Work Practice Act

Background

The Board’s 2015-2018 Strategic Plan identified an in-depth review of the [Board of Social Work Practice Act](#) as a key priority initiative. The Board last conducted a comprehensive review of the Social Work Practice Act in 2004-2005. The Board’s Legislation and Rules (L&R) Committee convened in January of 2018 to begin this work. The L&R Committee is comprised of Board members, Board staff, and three representatives from the Board’s [Advisory Committee](#), creating an opportunity for stakeholder input throughout the process.

Project Scope & Goals

The L&R Committee is reviewing [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 148E](#) and [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 148D Provisional License](#) sections with a focus on relevant regulation, plain language, licensure mobility, and technology standards. The committee’s goal is to prepare a legislative proposal for Board consideration and action for introduction in the 2020 or 2021 legislative session.

The L&R Committee has created the following framework goals to serve as a guide as it considers possible changes to the Social Work Practice Act:

- Promoting Board mission to protect the public
- Considering licensure mobility impact
- Balancing competency standards and barriers to the profession
- Creating operational efficiencies where possible
- Focusing on data driven policy
- Considering overall workforce issues

Board Consideration and Action

The L&R Committee presented several draft sections of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 148E at the January 18, 2019, public Board meeting as an educational session and overview of the work accomplished during 2018. No action to approve draft sections was requested of the Board at its January public Board meeting. However, Board action is planned for the March 15, 2019, public Board meeting. The L&R Committee determined it most effective and efficient to bring forward draft sections to the full Board incrementally to allow the Board and stakeholders the opportunity for thoughtful review. There will be no proposed changes for the 2019 legislative session.

The following draft sections were considered at the January public Board meeting. The draft sections are available for review in the [public Board meeting documents](#) for the January meeting (pages 12-26).

- 148E.001 Citation
- 148E.015 Scope
- 148E.020 Chapter 214
- 148E.025 Board of Social Work
- 148E.030 Duties of the Board
- 148E.035 Variances
- 148E.040 Immunity
- 148E.045 Contested Case Hearing
- 148E.050 Licensing; Scope of Practice
- 148E.070 License Renewals

Opportunity for Comment

The L&R Committee is currently reviewing [Minnesota Statutes section 148E.055, License Requirements](#). To offer comments, you may submit written comments to social.work@state.mn.us.

To stay up to date with the L&R Committee’s work on the “deep dive” of the Social Work Practice Act, visit the [Board Committees](#) page of the Board’s website.