

2018 Legislative Correction for 2017 BOSW Fee Adjustment Increase Error

Fee Increase Fact Sheet

March 30, 2018

2018 Legislative Action to Correct the 2017 Technical Error

- House of Representatives initiated [HF 4192](#) on March 22, 2018 to correct the error from the 2017 session.
- HF 4192 passed out of House Health and Human Services Finance Committee on March 29, 2018.
- House publically stated it was correcting the 2017 Legislative session technical error, resulting in the BOSW fee increase not being enacted into law despite approval by the Legislature and Governor.

2017 Session Technical Error

- During the 2017 session the Legislature and Governor approved the BOSW fee adjustment increase and increased appropriation for critical expenditures for a new staff position, increased technology costs, and increased education and outreach for the FY 2018-FY 2019 BOSW biennial budget.
- The technical error occurred when the BOSW section of statute, MN 148E.080, was unintentionally omitted from inclusion in the final omnibus finance bill, at the end of the very busy regular 2017 session.
- The unintended consequence resulted in an increased appropriation for strategic initiatives and expenditures, without the intended BOSW fee increase being enacted into law in 2017.

Fee History

- Last fee increase in 2000.
- Fees decreased by 30% since 2000, with 20% reduction in 2006, and 10% reduction in 2009.
- First time in 18 years to propose a fee increase.
- “Actual fee” amounts proposed and approved in 2017 are still lower than in year 2000.

2017 Support for BOSW Fee Increase Proposal

- BOSW engaged in intentional, public meetings and website postings regarding the critical need and data to support a fee increase for several years.
- BOSW vetted the fee increase proposal in 2016 and 2017 at public meetings with its Advisory Committee, representing 10 professional social work associations. Meetings were held with the Minnesota Coalition of Licensed Social Workers and Association of Macro Practice Social Workers.
- Professional associations understood the need for the fee increase. There was no formal opposition in 2017 from the BOSW Advisory Committee, with many associations in support of the fee increase.
- BOSW acted in July 2016 to implement “actual fee” amounts lower than the proposed “not to exceed” fee amounts, to effectively manage future budgets and potentially lower fees as appropriate.

- BOSW ranks 130% below the national average for social work license application fees, and 10% above the national average for social work licensing fees. BOSW fees are comparable and even lower than some other Minnesota “mental health board” licensing fees.

Rationale and Benefits

- Necessary reality for the BOSW to effectively conduct the State’s business and ensure sound future policy and fiscal strategic goals.
- Necessary to maintain core public safety responsibilities including complaint investigation and resolution, and licensing functions, and to avoid adverse effects on citizens, professionals, and the workforce.
- Significant increases in services from 2000 to 2017:
 - 55% increase in total number of active licensees
 - 127% increase in applications received per year
 - 68% increase in number of complaints received per year
 - [Licensing and Compliance Data Report for Fiscal Years 2000-2015](#) includes additional data
- BOSW is entirely fee supported and receives no general fund dollars.
- Avoid deficit spending projected beginning in FY 2019 and beyond, and ensure the BOSW can comply with State law to maintain a balanced budget. Read the [2017 Annual Budget Report](#) for additional information.

24 Month License & Renewal Fees					
License Type	Current 24-Month Fee	Current Monthly Fee	Proposed 24-Month fee	Proposed Monthly Fee	Not to Exceed 24-Month Fees
Licensed Social Worker (LSW)	\$81.00	\$3.37	\$105.00	\$4.37 <i>(\$1.00 increase)</i>	\$115.00
Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)	\$144.00	\$6.00	\$190.00	\$7.92 <i>(\$2.00 increase)</i>	\$210.00
Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW)	\$216.00	\$9.00	\$280.00	\$11.66 <i>(\$2.60 increase)</i>	\$305.00
Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)	\$238.50	\$9.93	\$310.00	\$12.92 <i>(\$3.00 increase)</i>	\$335.00

24 Month License & Renewal Fees			
Application Type	Current Application Fee	Proposed Application Fee	Not to Exceed Amount
Licensed Social Worker (LSW)	\$45	\$60	\$75
Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)	\$45	\$60	\$75
Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW)	\$45	\$60	\$75
Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)	\$45	\$60	\$75
Licensure by Endorsement – All License Types	\$85	\$100	\$115

Questions

- Email the Board at social.work@state.mn.us