



BOARD BULLETIN

MINNESOTA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER



2019 LEGISLATIVE FEATURE

Proposed Budget & Fee Change update

State Budget Bills Passed in Special Session—Awaiting Governor’s Signature

While the BOSW understands that no one likes to see costs increase, we would not have proposed a fee change if the need were not critical. The proposed budget includes investments to provide the necessary resources to maintain current core public safety services, ensure fiscal stability, and create strategic investments to improve our effectiveness, and ensure efficient and accountable services to all those we serve.

Why did the BOSW propose a fee change?

- BOSW receives no general fund tax dollars—fees are the only source of revenue
- Last fee increase was 19 years ago
- Actual fee amounts approved by the Board in current budget proposal keep fees lower than in 2000
- Fees decreased by 30% since 2000, with a 20% reduction in 2006 and a 10% reduction in 2009
- Board reserves were reduced significantly following legislative transfer of \$1.4 million from the Board balance in the State Government Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund between 2004 and 2012
- Fee change is necessary to avoid projected deficit spending and maintain a balanced budget
- Cost of doing business, including legal and technology expenses, has increased significantly
- Fee change proposal was approved by both the Governor and Legislature in 2017 and 2018 but not enacted into law due to a 2017 technical legislative drafting omission, and the Governor’s veto of the 2018 State Omnibus bill

Is the fee change approved?

- No, not yet—the BOSW budget including the fee change was passed in Special Session as part of the HHS Omnibus Budget Finance Bill
- Awaiting Governor’s signature for final enactment

How has the BOSW responded to stakeholder feedback?

- In response to feedback from stakeholders, the Board approved a **15% reduction** to the proposed “actual fee amounts” for newly issued LSW and LGSW licenses at its May 17, 2019 public board meeting as a “new grad discount” to ease the impact of the fee change on new licensees
- “Actual” monthly LSW and LGSW **initial license fee** increases by only \$0.52 and \$0.98
- “Actual” 24-month **initial license fee** for LSW is \$93.50 and for LGSW is \$167.75
- “Actual” 24-month **license renewal fee** beginning with the first renewal for LSW is \$110.00 and for LGSW is \$195.00

What are the new fees if the fee change is approved?

- Proposed fee change is structured in a “may not exceed the following amounts but may be adjusted lower by board action” model
- BOSW took action at its September 21, 2018 public board meeting to **not** implement fees at the full “not to exceed,” but to propose implementation of a lower “actual fee amount”

ACTUAL 24-MONTH INITIAL LICENSE FEE INCREASES (WITH 15% REDUCTION FOR LSW+LGSW)

License Type	Current Monthly Fee	Current 24-Month Fee	Actual Monthly Increase	Monthly Fee with Increase	24-Month Fee with Increase
LSW	\$3.37	\$81.00	\$0.52	\$3.89	\$93.50
LGSW	\$6.00	\$144.00	\$0.98	\$6.98	\$167.75
LISW	\$9.00	\$216.00	\$3.29	\$12.29	\$295.00
LICSW	\$9.94	\$238.50	\$3.60	\$13.54	\$325.00

ACTUAL 24-MONTH LICENSE RENEWAL FEE INCREASES

License Type	Current Monthly Fee	Current 24-Month Fee	Actual Monthly Increase	Monthly Fee with Increase	24-Month Fee with Increase
LSW	\$3.37	\$81.00	\$1.21	\$4.58	\$110.00
LGSW	\$6.00	\$144.00	\$2.13	\$8.13	\$195.00
LISW	\$9.00	\$216.00	\$3.29	\$12.29	\$295.00
LICSW	\$9.94	\$238.50	\$3.60	\$13.54	\$325.00

ACTUAL APPLICATION FEE INCREASES

Application Basis	Current Fee	Fee with Increase
Examination	\$45.00	\$60.00
Endorsement	\$85.00	\$100.00

When would fees be increased if fee change approved?

- If enacted, the legislation provides a July 1, 2019, effective date
- If enacted, the BOSW is hopeful to change and increase fees July 1, 2019, or shortly thereafter, however, infrastructure changes must be made to implement the fee change which will not be made until final enactment

How will I find out if the fee change is approved by the Legislature and Governor?

- **When we know, you’ll know—the Board will have detailed information available as soon as possible if the change is enacted**
 - Check [News & Updates](#) and [Budget Reports](#) on the Board’s website for updates
 - [Sign up to receive Budget News](#) from the Board