



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES FOR RULEMAKING HEARING BY THE BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS OCTOBER 14, 2011

Rulemaking Hearing Date: December 9, 2011, 8 a.m.- 9 a.m.
Board Offices at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR

Written Comment Period Ends: 9 a.m. on December 9, 2011

The proposed rules would in effect adopt as permanent the temporary rules in effect as of July 5, 2011, resulting in the following specific rule changes on a permanent basis as of January 1, 2012:

- Limit applicability of the LCSW late renewal fee increase (to \$200, legislatively ratified in HB 5009- 2011) to LCSWs renewing on active status; this means that LCSWs on inactive status or renewing under the reduced requirements status (often referred to as “semi-retired”) will continue to be charged only the previous level of the late fee (\$50).
- Provide the Board authority to waive fees for licensees on active military duty and deployed outside of Oregon for 90 days or more. (Note: the Board has existing broad language in its rules that permits the Board to fully or partially waive continuing education requirements for licensees on deployment.)
- Clarify authority of Board Chair including administrative approvals between Board meetings related to licensure; this is another SB 177 (2009) implementation piece that has a significant positive impact on applicants and licensees as it allows for significant decrease in processing times for licensure issuance, which is especially critical now that licensure is mandated for clinical social work. This rule change is also particularly important for applicants for CSWA, as earlier approval of the application means a CSWA can begin work sooner under Board-approved supervision, and thus complete LCSW licensure requirements sooner.

- Remove the requirement that an applicant for LCSW licensure must hold an LMSW license prior to issuance of an LCSW (implementing House Bill 2314 – 2011); this significantly decreases the burden both for CSWAs moving toward LCSW licensure, and out-of-state applicants for LCSW licensure, by removing an unnecessary step in the clinical licensure process.
- Clarify the process and requirements for out-of-state applicants for LCSW who intend to practice clinical social work prior to issuance of LCSW; specifically, the Oregon Board does not have authority to issue a temporary license to out-of-state holders of an LCSW; the rules provide that out-of state applicants who do not complete LCSW licensure in Oregon prior to moving to Oregon can apply for CSWA certification as an interim step so they can start practicing clinically while completing LCSW licensure requirements (this can be a longer process for those applicants who must sit for the national clinical exam). The rules further clarify that those out-of-state LCSW applicants who obtain Oregon CSWA certification must meet the same supervision requirements as apply to CSWAs that have completed their supervised work hours and are working toward taking and passing the national clinical exam (at that stage reduced supervision requirements apply).
- Specify the types of continuing education that will meet the requirements for licensure or certification renewal for LCSWs, LMSWs, and RBSWs; the rules specifically allow, at the RBSW and LMSW level, use of in-service, agency-sponsored training programs that meet currently existing continuing education standards in Board rules, for up to half of the required CE units for renewal. Simply put, the Board thought it important to provide some guidance now (as opposed to waiting for permanent rules) to the current 200+ licensees and pending applicants for the new non-clinical licensing types as to what type of CE might be allowable at the RBSW and LMSW level for purposes of meeting licensure renewal requirements. The existing rules on continuing education already make clear that CE on clinical level social work topics are required only for LCSWs, but can be applied toward LMSW / RBSW CE renewal requirements.

The proposed rules also contain minor housekeeping and technical changes. The document showing the full current text of the specific text edits proposed to become permanent is at: http://www.oregon.gov/BLSW/pdfs/edit_text_temporary_rules.pdf
Thank you for your consideration of these rules.

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