



## Virginia Department of Planning and Budget **Economic Impact Analysis**

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**18 VAC 140-20 Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work**  
**Department of Health Professions**  
**Town Hall Action/Stage: 5494/8912**  
May 1, 2020

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Board of Social Work (Board) seeks to amend 18 VAC 140-20 *Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work* in order to correct Section 51 *Requirements for licensure by examination as an LBSW* [Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker] *or LMSW* [Licensed Master's Social Worker]. The Board previously repealed the supervised experience requirement for LBSW applicants, but overlooked a reference to the requirement in section 51. Thus, the Board proposes to amend Section 51 to remove the requirement that LBSW applicants submit documentation showing the completion of the supervised work experience.

### **Background**

The Board previously amended the regulation to eliminate the requirement that LBSW applicants undergo 3000 hours of supervised work experience – that action went into effect March 5, 2020.<sup>1</sup> However, the Board overlooked the reference to the requirement in Section 51 at the time. The Board now seeks to amend Section 51 to remove the requirement for LBSW applicants to provide documentation demonstrating completion of the supervised work experience, to make it consistent with the rest of the chapter.

### **Estimated Benefits and Costs**

Since the Board only proposes to correct the regulation to make it conform to changes that have previously been approved and are currently in effect, the proposed amendment would have no substantive effect beyond eliminating potential confusion for readers of the regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://townhall.virginia.gov/l/ViewStage.cfm?stageid=8766>

## **Businesses and Other Entities Affected**

The correction proposed here, as with the Board's previous action that removed the supervised experience requirement, would affect current and future LBSW applicants.

## **Small Businesses<sup>2</sup> Affected**

The proposed amendments do not directly affect any small businesses, nor would they face any new costs as a result of the proposed amendments.

## **Localities<sup>3</sup> Affected<sup>4</sup>**

The proposed amendments are not expected to disproportionately affect particular localities or introduce new costs for local governments.

## **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposed amendments are unlikely to affect total employment in the industry.

## **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed amendments are unlikely to affect the use or value of private property. Real estate development costs are unlikely to be affected.

## **Legal Mandates**

**General:** The Department of Planning and Budget has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia (Code) and Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018). Code § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses determine the public benefits and costs of the proposed amendments. Further the report should include but not be limited to: (1) the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the proposed regulatory action would apply, (2) the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, (3) the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, (4) the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and (5) the impact on the use and value of private property.

**Adverse impacts:** Pursuant to Code § 2.2-4007.04(D): In the event this economic impact analysis reveals that the proposed regulation would have an adverse economic impact on businesses or would impose a significant adverse economic impact on a locality, business, or entity particularly affected, the Department of Planning and Budget shall advise the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance within the 45-day period.

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, small business is defined as "a business entity, including its affiliates, that (i) is independently owned and operated and (ii) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million."

<sup>3</sup> "Locality" can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulatory change are most likely to occur.

<sup>4</sup> § 2.2-4007.04 defines "particularly affected" as bearing disproportionate material impact.

If the proposed regulatory action may have an adverse effect on small businesses, Code § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include: (1) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation, (2) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents, (3) a statement of the probable effect of the proposed regulation on affected small businesses, and (4) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation. Additionally, pursuant to Code § 2.2-4007.1, if there is a finding that a proposed regulation may have an adverse impact on small business, the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules shall be notified.