

Agenda
State Board for Social Work
Wednesday, March 04, 2026
10:00 a.m.12:30 p.m.

Sites:
Albany
Education Building EB 150, Albany, NY
NYC
1411 Broadway 10th Floor
Syracuse OPD Office
333 East Washington Street, Suite 211 Syracuse, New York
Buffalo ACCESS Office,
508 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14202

To attend the **Social Work Board** meeting, let the board office know by emailing
Kayla.Apple@nysed.gov, Evan.Seiden@nysed.gov
to add your name to the security list of the site you choose.

"Members of the public may attend and observe the meeting. Please note that due to security restrictions, you are asked to arrive 15 minutes earlier if possible than the start of the meeting."

Thank you!

***Agenda and Discussion**

1. Welcome and review of Agenda.
2. Introductions
3. Review of 10/29/2025 meeting minutes
4. Executive Secretary's Report
 - a. Staffing and Processing
 - b. Board member recruitment.
5. Legislation and Regulation concerning Social Work

S9123- Extends the duration of limited permits to practice licensed clinical social work and use the title licensed clinical social worker, or practice licensed master social work and use the title licensed master social worker from twelve to twenty-four months with the ability to be renewed for up to two additional one-year periods.

S9124- Enacts the "building retention and internship-to-degree graduate employment (BRIDGE) act"; provides limited work permits for students in a master of social work program; establishes policies and procedures for such work permit.

S9125-Enacts the "licensure incentives and fee-support for testing (LIFT) act"; establishes the social work licensure examination voucher program to provide low-income individuals vouchers to cover the cost of the examination required for licensure as a licensed master social worker or licensed clinical social worker.

S988-Repeals the requirement that applicants must pass an examination in order to qualify as a licensed master social worker.

A780-Enacts the "Supervising Upcoming Professionals for Practice in Official Roles in Therapy (SUPPORT) act"; provides that for licensure as a clinical social worker, an applicant may satisfy the experience requirements under supervision of a mental health practitioner who has been granted the privilege to diagnose and develop assessment-based treatment plans under article one hundred sixty-three of the education law.

S1113-Provides for loan forgiveness for social workers who commit to work in counties with less than two hundred thousand population, or towns which have a population of less than one hundred fifty persons per square mile for the duration of the award.

6. Discussion Topics

Ethics training course

7. Other business

8. Adjournment

The University of the State of New York
State Education Department
Office of the Professions

**New York State Board of Social Work
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

This meeting was held in-person via WebEx at the following locations:

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 146, Albany, NY 12234
Office of the Professions, 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Syracuse Regional Office, 333 East Washington Street, Suite 211, Syracuse, NY 13202
Buffalo ACCESS Office, 508 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

Board members present:

Tracyavon Ford
Susan Nayowith
Laura Eastman-Follis
Mohini Mishra
Mary Owens
Virginia Spielman
Austen LaBarge
Robyn Wiktorski-Reynolds

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary (New York)
Kathleen Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education (Albany)
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst (Albany)
Henry Phillips, Education Program Assistant 1 (Albany)

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Meeting was streamed live and recorded. Board members and staff introduced themselves. Public and stakeholders attended to observe the meeting. Questions can be emailed to SWBD@nysed.gov. There were no changes in the agenda.

Introductions

Two new board members were in attendance. Executive Secretary welcomed Austen LaBarge, LCSW in Syracuse, and Robyn Wiktorski-Reynolds, LMSW in Buffalo.

Review of the June 11th, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

A quorum of Board members were present. Motion to accept minutes was made. First by Susan Nayowith; seconded by Mary Owens. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Staffing and Processing: Volume of applications has doubled as a result of the sunset of exempt settings and the addition of diagnostic privilege applications. New Education Program Assistant 1 trainee board office staff Annie Connors was hired. Experience reviews are about 8 weeks out.
- b. Board Member Recruitment: Two new board members added – Austen LaBarge, LCSW in Syracuse, and Robyn Wiktorski-Reynolds, LMSW in Buffalo. Board member representation geographically diverse. Public members are needed. As a reminder, public members are consumers of SW services (not licensed). Board consists of 5 LMSWs, 5 LCSWs, and 2 public members. Board members can refer those interested to Executive Secretary for further information. Board member applications can be found online.

Presentation – Professional Assistance Program (PAP) from Director Jennifer Granato

Director Jennifer Granato gave a presentation on the PAP and its' duties. The PAP protects the public and supports professionals in recovery.

- PAP program is an alternative to professional discipline program.
- Professionals must not have caused patient harm.

Legislation and Regulation Affecting Social Work

Executive Secretary made Board members aware of one regulation change and one bill in State Legislature.

Applicants for SW licenses can now apply for ESL examination accommodations with ASWB.

A8484 An act to amend the education law, in regulating the use of artificial intelligence in the provision of therapy and psychotherapy services.

- Board discussed details of the bill – the possible merits and drawbacks, implication for the public, etc.
- Board members discussed their professional and personal experiences with AI related to the field of psychotherapy.
- Experiences of AI related to students and learning was also discussed; tools to flag plagiarism use AI.

Discussion Topics

Ethics Course

Board members are required to take Ethics training course. Members were given information on training course. Office of Human Resources Management plans to have monthly virtual offerings for convenience.

Other Business

Scheduling for future board meetings was discussed – meeting dates and topics.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Susan Nayowith firsted. Seconded by Virginia Spielman. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am by Chair Tracyavon Ford.

STATE OF NEW YORK

9123

IN SENATE

February 5, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SUTTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to extending the duration of limited permits to practice licensed clinical social work and licensed master social work

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 7705 of the education law, as
2 amended by chapter 230 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 1. On recommendation of the board, the department may issue a limited
5 permit to practice licensed clinical social work and use the title
6 licensed clinical social worker, or to practice licensed master social
7 work and use the title licensed master social worker to an applicant who
8 has met all requirements for licensure as a licensed master social work-
9 er or a licensed clinical social worker except those relating to the
10 examination and provided that the individual is under the general super-
11 vision of a licensed master social worker or a licensed clinical social
12 worker, as determined by the department. This limited permit shall be
13 valid for a period of not more than [~~twelve~~] twenty-four months, and
14 such limited permits may be renewed, at the discretion of the depart-
15 ment, for up to two additional one-year periods.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
17 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
18 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
19 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
20 completed on or before such effective date.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD14175-03-6

STATE OF NEW YORK

9124

IN SENATE

February 5, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SUTTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "building retention and internship-to-degree graduate employment (BRIDGE) act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "building retention and internship-to-degree graduate employment
3 (BRIDGE) act".

4 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 7705 of the education law is renumbered
5 subdivision 3 and a new subdivision 2 is added to read as follows:

6 2. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an appli-
7 cant who has completed at least four hundred fifty hours of the field
8 work component in a master of social work program registered by the
9 department may apply for a limited permit in accordance with the
10 provisions of this subdivision.

11 (b) Such limited permit shall:

12 (i) be issued upon submission of an application prescribed by the
13 department;

14 (ii) require certification, on such application, by a supervisor
15 licensed and qualified under this article, attesting that the supervisor
16 agrees to oversee the permittee and authorizes the permittee to continue
17 providing care within the supervisor's practice or agency upon issuance
18 of the limited permit;

19 (iii) become effective immediately upon the applicant's graduation
20 from the master of social work program; and

21 (iv) authorize the permittee to practice only under the supervision of
22 such supervisor and only in accordance with the commissioner's regu-
23 lations.

24 (c) Limited permits issued under this subdivision shall be valid for
25 the same period as a limited permit issued in subdivision one of this
26 section.

27 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
28 it shall have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD14302-04-6

STATE OF NEW YORK

9125

IN SENATE

February 5, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SUTTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "licensure incentives and fee-support for testing (LIFT) act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "licensure
2 incentives and fee-support for testing (LIFT) act".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 7711 to read
4 as follows:

5 § 7711. Social work licensure examination voucher program. 1. The
6 department shall establish a program to provide vouchers to eligible
7 low-income individuals to cover the cost of the examination required for
8 licensure as a licensed master social worker or licensed clinical social
9 worker.

10 2. To be eligible for a voucher under this section, an applicant
11 shall: (a) be a resident of the state; (b) be eligible to sit for the
12 licensed master social worker or licensed clinical social worker exam-
13 ination; and (c) demonstrate income at or below a threshold established
14 by the department by rule or regulation, based on net taxable income, as
15 determined pursuant to section six hundred sixty-three of this chapter.
16 Provided, however, that for applicants who would be considered emanci-
17 pated pursuant to subdivision three of section six hundred sixty-three
18 of this chapter, eligibility shall be determined without regard to
19 parental income.

20 3. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
21 implement the provisions of this section.

22 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
23 it shall have become a law.

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LBD14592-03-6

STATE OF NEW YORK

988

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. BROUK, COMRIE, FERNANDEZ, JACKSON, LIU, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SEPULVEDA, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to repeal paragraph (d) of subdivision 1 of section 7704 of the education law requiring applicants to pass an examination in order to qualify as a licensed master social worker

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 1 of section 7704 of the
- 2 education law is REPEALED.
- 3 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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LBD01956-01-5

STATE OF NEW YORK

780

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BERGER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "Supervising Upcoming Professionals for Practice in Official Roles in Therapy (SUPPORT) act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Supervis-
2 ing Upcoming Professionals for Practice in Official Roles in Therapy
3 (SUPPORT) act".

4 § 2. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section 7704 of the education
5 law, as amended by chapter 130 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (c) Experience: have at least three years full-time supervised post-
8 graduate clinical social work experience in diagnosis, psychotherapy,
9 and assessment-based treatment plans, or its part-time equivalent,
10 obtained over a continuous period not to exceed six years, under the
11 supervision, satisfactory to the department, of a psychiatrist, a
12 licensed psychologist, ~~[or]~~ a licensed clinical social worker in a
13 facility setting or other supervised settings approved by the department
14 or a mental health practitioner who has been granted the privilege to
15 diagnose and develop assessment-based treatment plans under article one
16 hundred sixty-three of this title. Satisfactory experience obtained in
17 an entity operating under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to
18 section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the
19 department, notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained
20 prior to the effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a
21 and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may,
22 for good cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained
23 in a setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has

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1 not obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was
2 obtained in good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropri-
3 ate authorization had been obtained for the experience, provided that
4 such experience meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;
5 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK

1113

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. MAY, BROUK, FERNANDEZ, JACKSON, WEBB -- read twice
and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee
on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing loan
forgiveness for social workers

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 679-k
2 to read as follows:

3 § 679-k. New York state social worker loan forgiveness incentive
4 program. 1. Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness
5 awards for the purpose of alleviating the burden of student loan debt
6 for social workers in New York state. Such awards shall be made on a
7 competitive basis as promulgated by the corporation for such purposes,
8 to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. Such rules and regu-
9 lations shall include provisions for the consideration of applicants who
10 are economically disadvantaged.

11 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this section,
12 applicants shall:

13 (a) have graduated and obtained a degree from an approved New York
14 state college or university;

15 (b) have an outstanding student loan debt from obtaining such degree;

16 (c) be employed as a licensed master social worker or licensed clin-
17 ical social worker in New York state in accordance with article one
18 hundred fifty-four of this chapter;

19 (d) apply for this program within two years of college graduation;

20 (e) comply with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred
21 sixty-one of this part; and

22 (f) make a commitment to practice in a county with less than two
23 hundred thousand population, or any town which has a population of less

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1 than one hundred fifty persons per square mile for the duration of the
2 award.

3 3. Awards. The corporation shall grant such awards within amounts
4 appropriated for such purposes and based on the availability of funds.

5 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
6 have become a law.