



Voting Summary

Proposed amendments to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act

**Suggested amendments to the Model Social Work Practice Act (Model Law) as
proposed by the Regulations and Standards Committee for vote at the 2025
meeting of the ASWB Delegate Assembly**

**Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly
November 8-9, 2025
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Proposed amendments to the Model Law

The Regulations and Standards Committee (RAS) submitted proposed amendments to the Model Social Work Practice Act (Model Law) for approval by the ASWB Board of directors prior to publication to the membership on September 9, 2025.

Delegates will vote on the proposed amendments on Saturday, November 9, 2025.

- Each amendment will be voted on separately.
- Amendments require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum for that day to pass.

Amendment #1: Strive for inclusive language across all jurisdictions

The use of neutral language within the Model Law is essential to ensure inclusivity and applicability across multiple regions and jurisdictions. The RAS Committee proposes to make statute language changes necessary to ensure neutrality with respect to any single nation, jurisdiction, or region. Throughout the document: 1) replace the word “state” with “jurisdiction, and 2) Make additional language changes to ensure applicability to both U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions. Note: This change impacts text in multiple areas of the document, several examples of text changes follow below.

Section 213. Powers and Responsibilities.

*(a) The Board shall be responsible for the control and regulation of the practice of social work in this ~~state~~ ***jurisdiction*** including, but not limited to, the following:*

Section 401. Grounds, Penalties, and Reinstatement.

*(5) Conviction of a Felony ***or Indictable Offence*** (as defined under ~~state~~ ***jurisdiction*** ~~provincial~~, or federal law);*

Section 204. Appointment.

*The Governor ***appropriate authority of the jurisdiction*** shall appoint the members of the Board in accordance with other provisions of this Article and the state constitution.*

Amendment #2 Promote board/council authority over emergency rule making and address inclusivity of language

In "*Section 212. Rules.*" affirm the need for the board/council to have the statutory authority to establish emergency rules. The RAS Committee included the language "and shall include a provision for emergency rule making" to explicitly provide the board/council with the authority to enact emergency rules when necessary. This addition ensures that, in situations such as a global public health pandemic, or natural disasters, the board/council has the flexibility and responsiveness required to swiftly implement rules that address urgent and unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, consistent with the spirit of Amendment #1, the RAS Committee proposes to amend "Administrative Procedures Act" to "jurisdiction law" for applicability to Canadian jurisdictions.

Section 212. Rules.

The Board shall make, adopt, amend, suspend, and repeal such rules as may be deemed necessary by the Board for the proper administration and enforcement of this Act. Such rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the procedures specified in the ~~Administrative Procedures Act~~ jurisdiction law and shall include a provision for emergency rule making.

Amendment #3: Administering jurisprudence and competence examinations

In “Section 307. Examinations.” the RAS Committee recommends the removal of the previous items a-c from Section 307 regarding examination administration and the addition of new items to clarify board/council responsibilities. The revised language establishes clear delineations for the administration of licensure examinations and jurisprudence examinations, ensuring alignment with current practices in jurisdiction statutes. This amendment aims to provide greater clarity on the board/council authority and processes, reflecting the evolution of examination requirements and regulatory oversight since the language was written when the Model Law was first published in 1997. The RAS Committee observed that the original language with respect to content and subject matter addressed a period when examinations were newly required for professional licensure. The tasks outlined in the original language are delegated to entities responsible for examination development by regulatory authorities responsible for regulating professional practice. While the delegation of this work is under the purview of the board / council, regulatory entities typically engage test development experts to carry out the work rather than execute the tasks themselves.

Section 307. Examinations.

~~(a)——Any Examination for licensure required under this Act shall be administered to applicants often enough to meet the reasonable needs of candidates for licensure. The Board shall be ultimately responsible for determining the content and subject matter of each Examination and the time, place, and dates of administration of the Examination. If applicable, the Board may confer with and rely upon the expertise of an Examination entity in making such determinations~~

~~(b)——The Examination shall document that the applicant meets the standard of minimum competence to engage in the relevant practice of social work. The Board may employ, cooperate with, and contract with any organization or consultant in the preparation, administration, and grading of an Examination but shall retain the sole discretion and responsibility for determining which applicants have successfully passed such an Examination.~~

~~(c)——The board shall have the authority to limit the number of attempts on the Examination in order to protect the integrity and security of the Examination and to ensure minimum competence.~~

(a). With the exception of a jurisprudence examination, any Examination for licensure required under this Act shall be designed to assess minimum competence of social work practice and developed following industry standards related to validity, reliability, and legal defensibility. These Examinations shall be offered often enough to meet the reasonable needs of candidates for licensure. Consistent with the intent of Article III, Section 311,

the Board may engage the services of any organization or consultant in the development, administration, scoring, and maintenance of an Examination(s) in compliance with this Section.

(b). The Board shall have the authority to limit the number of attempts on the Examination in order to protect the integrity and security of the Examination and to ensure minimum competence.

Amendment #4: Add a requirement for competence examination for licensure by endorsement applicants

In "Section 308. Qualifications for Licensure by Endorsement." add Item 3 to reinforce the importance of examination as a requirement for licensure by endorsement applicants.

Section 308. Qualifications for Licensure by Endorsement.

(a) To obtain a license by endorsement at the equivalent designation and subject to Article IV of this Act, an applicant currently licensed as a social worker in another jurisdiction must provide evidence satisfactory to the Board, subject to Article III, Section 311, that the applicant:

- (1) Has submitted a written application and paid the fee as specified by the Board; and*
- (2) Has presented to the Board proof of an active social work license in good standing.*
- (3) Has obtained a passing score on the Examination required by the Board.*

Amendment #5: Promote board / council authority to fill vacancies if left unfilled

In "*Section 206. Vacancies.*" add a provision to permit the board / council to fill vacancies if not filled within a six-month period. The RAS Committee suggests that in instances where a board / council position remain unfilled for an extended period, leadership should be entrusted to appoint individuals directly. This provision reinforces the importance of public protection in having each seat on the board / council filled according to statutorily defined composition requirements.

Section 206. Vacancies

Any vacancy which occurs in the membership of the Board for any reason, including expiration of term, removal, resignation, death, disability, or disqualification, shall be filled within six (6) months as prescribed by Section 204. **If a vacancy is not filled within the six (6) month period, the Board shall have the authority to fill the vacancy.**