

# 2025 Regulations and Standards Committee report to the Delegate Assembly



## Charge to committee

The Regulation and Standards Committee reviews and recommends policies and actions pertaining to the association's role in providing regulatory information, making policy suggestions, facilitating the exchange of information about practice mobility and portability, and working toward uniformity of law and practice while respecting jurisdictional rights. The Committee works closely with the president and the CEO and reports to the Board of Directors. As necessary and appropriate, the Committee works in collaboration with other ASWB committees and task forces to complete its charges. The Committee's work is guided by the ASWB strategic framework and governmental affairs policy platform whenever applicable. The Committee seeks to elevate the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in regulation at every opportunity.

## Ongoing charges

1. Developing and considering proposals for additions or changes to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.
2. Conducting regular reviews of the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.
3. Encouraging the use of ASWB resources in support of uniformity in regulation. Providing input on related policies and procedures such as the Laws and Regulations Database, legislative and regulatory tracking services, and curated data products.
4. Making suggestions for model procedures and requirements to support greater uniformity among jurisdictions.
5. Monitoring, reviewing, and developing recommendations related to continued regulatory reform initiatives and emerging issues impacting the regulation of social work practice. Ensuring recommendations are in alignment with ASWB governmental affairs priorities.

### Committee members

#### *Chairperson*

Barbara Temmerman, Manitoba

Brian Carnahan, Ohio

Dominic Miller, Arizona

Amy Rosborough, British Columbia

Steve Sodergren, California

Scott Stephens, South Carolina  
Board Liaison

Darrel Spinks, Texas

#### **Report prepared by**

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## Recommendations/actions

1. The committee continued ongoing work on the Model Social Work Practice Act (model law). Efforts were first initiated in 2021 with a comprehensive review of the document incorporating member input via survey and focus group discussions. Changes to the document's structure and guidance language as suggested by the committee in 2024 were reviewed, as was statute language changes made by the committee in 2023. Over the course of several meetings, committee members reviewed and held discussions on sections of the model law pertaining to examination policy including *Regulations – Examination Re-takes* and accompanying *Section 307*.

*Examinations, and Section 308. Qualifications for Licensure by Endorsement.*

2. The committee published a series of amendments to the model law statute language for vote by the membership at the Delegate Assembly on November 9, 2025. These recommendations incorporate changes suggested by the committee in 2023 and 2025. The reason for the amendments are:
  - To support the use of nation-neutral language within the model law to ensure inclusivity and applicability across multiple regions and jurisdictions
  - To elevate the need for board/council authority for emergency rule making
  - To highlight the importance of filling board vacancies in a timely manner
  - To ensure language around examination policy reflects the current regulatory environment.
3. The committee evaluated key regulatory topics including license by endorsement, examination policy, implications of the interstate Social Work Licensure Compact, and the regulation of social work services provided through distance mediating technology. No recommendations were made outside of the proposed changes to the model law statute language published to the membership on September 9, 2025.

## Future discussion topics and/or suggestions for 2026 charge

In 2026, ASWB staff will work to operationalize the updates suggested by the committee to the structure of the model law document, including redeveloping the guidance language and text commentary. As work progresses on the document, staff will consult with the committee for review and input. The committee will consider how to educate about the model law, its purpose, and the potential application for individual jurisdictions.

The committee also discussed conducting a review of ASWB's current regulatory resources and data systems in 2026. The review will help to improve the resources currently offered to jurisdictions, stakeholders, and the public. Further goals will be developed such as identifying how best to engage jurisdictions in the management of the information and exploring the development of additional resource materials for select purposes.

Finally, for 2026, the committee has proposed exploration of other areas to advance model procedures and requirements to support greater uniformity in requirements across jurisdictions. This focus on best practices outside of the model law might include license verification, supervision documentation, and other necessary tasks integral to the administration of the regulatory mandate.