

## Additional questions about proposed interstate licensing compacts

To be completed by proposal sponsor. (500 Word Count Limit for this page)

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*\*Please fill out this form in addition to the applicable Questionnaire A or B.*

Bill Number: **HF4049/SF4076**

1. Who would be affected by the compact? Are any of these practitioners unionized? If so, which unions represent these practitioners?

*All social workers licensed by the Minnesota Board of Social Work with licensure type of Licensed Social Worker (LSW), Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW), Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), or Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), according to [MN Statue 148E.055](#) will be affected by the compact.*

*Licensed social workers can choose a work setting that has union positions. Licensed social workers are not automatically unionized nor is there a union specific to social work.*

*Social workers do both direct practice (clinical & non-clinical) in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, counties, mental health settings, non-profits, etc. and macro practice including policy, leadership, community organizing, etc.*

2. How will practitioners who are not represented by the advocates learn about the bill?

*The Board of Social Work has compact information available on its website. If the compact language passes, the Board will offer informational session about the compact to licensees. In addition, the Board will send compact information to licensees who join the compact.*

*Over the course of the two-year compact development process, NASW-MN facilitated multiple information sessions open to social workers in MN. Additionally, the status of the compact legislation is a primary focus of Social Work Advocacy week held February 26-29, 2024. Though sponsored by NASW-MN, Advocacy Week is open to all social workers and students at no cost; 600-800 social workers and students are expected to participate, and information is recorded for future engagement.*

*Should the compact language pass the Legislature, NASW-MN is committed to joining the Board of Social Work and/or creating independent information sessions.*

3. Do standards for practice and/or licensing vary throughout the country? How?

*There are some differences among jurisdictions. For example, some jurisdictions may not issue bachelor level license or master level macro focused license like Minnesota; in addition, some jurisdiction requires more supervised practice hours than others.*

*The compact establishes a minimum set of standards to be eligible to join the compact, and states must meet those standards to issue a multi-state license. States that do not offer licenses in a category offered by the compact will not be able to offer their residents a multi-state license. For example, a state who does not license bachelor level social workers will not be able to secure a multi-state license to practice as a LSW in MN.*

*Currently, jurisdictions have license by endorsement process to evaluate if licensing requirements are comparable to the license in their jurisdiction. The Board of Social Work has a licensure by endorsement process for social workers licensed in another jurisdiction. Currently, Minnesota has 2122 licensure by endorsement social workers. The majority of the licensure by endorsement are social workers from Minnesota's border states.*

4. Does the compact already exist? When did it become active? Which states are members of the compact? If not, when will it become active?

*The Social Work Licensure Compact has not been enacted yet. When 7 states pass legislation to join the compact, it will enact the compact commission. Missouri passed the language and signed it into law on July 7, 2023([SB670](#) and [SB157](#)). South Dakota recently passed legislation (HB1015).*

*Other than MN, 28 other states have introduced legislation this session thus far ([swcompact.org/compact-map](http://swcompact.org/compact-map)).*

5. How many of the affected occupation are currently working in MN? How many are expected to work in Minnesota if the compact is approved?

*Because the social work compact commission has not been established and the multi-state license is not yet available, it is difficult to estimate at this time.*

*The Board of Social Work has a licensure by endorsement process for social workers licensed in another jurisdiction and presumably, the compact would be an alternative option for those social workers if their home states joins the compact. Currently, Minnesota has 2122 licensure by endorsement social workers.*

6. Will Minnesota's regulatory authority be notified when an out-of-state practitioner begins practice in Minnesota? What process, if any, will be followed?

*The Board anticipates that when the compact coordinated database system is established, the notification will come from the data system. Without a compact commission to establish a coordinated data system, the actual steps to issue notification is unknown at this time.*

7. How will out-of-state practitioners be regulated while in MN? Will Minnesota's regulatory agency accept and investigate complaints regarding out-of-state licensees? If not, what is the process for a patient to make a complaint?

*The compact language gives the remote state the authority to take action according to its statute regarding practice within the state. Action can include barring individuals from practicing in MN.*

*The Board expects to investigate complaints regarding social work practice. MN Board of Social Work's complaint process can be found on the Board's [website](http://mn.gov/boards/socialwork) (mn.gov/boards/socialwork).*

8. Does the regulator body have capacity/how will it increase capacity to handle additional complaints? Will out-of-state practitioners pay a fee to increase regulatory capacity?

*The Board of Social Work anticipates there will be expenses associated with joining the compact that includes but not limited to a fee to join the compact commission, upgrades to BOSW database for multistate licenses, and increase in staff time to process application and complaints. Therefore, the Board will need to adjust the budget to include the increased costs for joining the compact.*

*We expect the Compact Commission to establish a multistate licensing fee structure to be paid by the licensee to their home state to obtain a multistate compact license. This fee paid by Minnesota social workers pursuing a multi-state license is meant to off-set on-going expenses.*

*The fiscal impact is unknown at this time because the compact commission has not been established. Also, the number of jurisdictions participating in the social work compact will impact the costs and fees.*