

**Interstate Licensure Compact**  
**HF4049/SF4076**



**The Issue:**

- Currently social workers must maintain a separate license for each state they wish to practice. Requirements include taking multiple exams and managing extra continuing education requirements, a burdensome expense for social workers.
- A compact would streamline existing and duplicative reciprocity processes.
- Social workers seek to join psychologists and psychiatrists with a compact, creating better consistency among mental health professionals.
- This especially impacts:
  - ⇒ Minnesotans living on the border.
  - ⇒ Social workers or clients who want to utilize telehealth services out of state.
  - ⇒ Consumers seeking access to qualified professionals that best match their needs or continued care after relocating.

**Social Work Fast Facts**

- The social work profession is grounded in *serving the most vulnerable* people.
- Social workers *are trained* to study connections between people and their environment.
- MN passed *licensing regulations* for social workers in 1987.
- There are *4 levels of social work licenses*, determined by education level and supervision:
  - ⇒ Licensed Social Worker (LSW)
  - ⇒ Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)
  - ⇒ Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW)
  - ⇒ Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)
- Social workers do *both direct practice* (clinical & non-clinical) in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, counties, non-profits, etc. *and macro practice* including policy, leadership, community organizing, etc.
- Clinical social workers (LICSW) are the *largest group of mental health providers* in MN.

**The Proposal:**

- A national workgroup convened and developed common standards that states can adopt. NASW-MN was a part of the workgroup and social workers around the country offered feedback.
- An interstate license will be optional, not required, for social workers. Applicants will follow licensing requirements in their home state and pay an extra fee to obtain an interstate license to practice in other participating states. Minnesotans can report social workers from other states to the MN Board of Social Work.
- The Board of Social Work and multiple social work professional organizations, including NASW-MN, are collaborating in their support of this effort.
- Information can be found at [swcompact.org](http://swcompact.org)

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