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To: Ms. Emily DeAngelo  
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From: Farra Mughal  
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Occupational Licensing Review Program

Date: October 8, 2025

Subject: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
Proposed Amendment to LAC 46:XXV.301 *et seq.* -Regarding Chapter 3: General Provisions

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## **I. SUMMARY**

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “**Board**”) proposes amending LAC 46:XXV.301 *et seq.* (the “**Proposed Amendments**”) relative to the general provisions of practice.<sup>1</sup> The Proposed Amendments (i) add or modify definitions, (ii) establish when a social worker must take a qualifying examination and reduce the number of supervised hours needed to obtain licensure, (iii) establish requirements for early testing, (iv) make clarifying edits to the rules governing application procedures, (v) eliminate the requirement that renewal notices be mailed on or before July 1 of each year, (vi) modify the fee schedule, (vii) repeal and redesignate the chapter related to continuing education, (viii) allow for reciprocity of credentials for social workers who have demonstrated that their qualifying requirements are equivalent to those in Louisiana, (ix) establish the requirements for inactive status, and (x) establish the requirements for emeritus status.

The Board published a Notice of Intent to promulgate the Proposed Amendments on January 20, 2025.<sup>2</sup> The Notice invited public comments through February 10, 2025 and set a public hearing on the proposed rules to be held on February 25, 2025.<sup>3</sup>

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:260, the Board submitted the Proposed Rules to the Louisiana Department of Justice’s Occupational Licensing Review Program (the “**OLRP**”) on June 23, 2025. The OLRP invited public comments on the Proposed Amendments June 24, 2025 through July 8, 2025 and received no comments.

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<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Register Vol. 51 No. 1, January 20, 2025 at pgs. 119-140

<sup>2</sup> Id. at pg. 139

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 1054

The OLRP reviews proposed occupational regulations of participating state occupational licensing boards.<sup>4</sup> Licensing requirements create barriers to market entry for individuals desiring to engage in a profession or occupation, and the Proposed Amendments to §§305, 307, 313, 325, and 327 are therefore properly considered occupational regulations with reasonably foreseeable anti-competitive effects.<sup>5</sup>

However, the Proposed Amendments to §§301, 309, 311 and 319 are not occupational regulations with reasonably foreseeable anticompetitive effects. An Occupational Regulation is a “rule defined in the Administrative Procedure Act that has reasonably foreseeable anti-competitive effects. Any license, permit, or regulation established by a ... board not composed of a controlling number of active market participants is excluded.”<sup>6</sup> The Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act (“*APA*”) defines a rule as an agency (Board) requirement for conduct or action prescribing the procedure or practice requirements of the agency (Board).<sup>7</sup> Anti-Competitive behavior is an act, or series of acts, that have the effect of harming the market or the process of competition among businesses, or a tendency to reduce or eliminate competition, with no legitimate business purpose.<sup>8</sup> As such, these Proposed Amendments do not require input from the OLRP pursuant to LA R.S. 49:260, and the Board may proceed with promulgation in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

Lastly, in regards to establishing a new fee or increasing an existing fee, it is not within the purview of the OLRP to comment on the constitutionality of a statute when there might be a conflict between the statute and an article of the state’s constitution. As set forth below, the OLRP has determined the Board’s Proposed Amendment to LAC 46:XXV.313 is within the Board’s statutory authority and adheres to clearly articulated state policy. Accordingly, the OLRP approves this Amendment for adoption as drafted, pending legislative approval.

## **II. ANALYSIS**

The Louisiana Social Work Practice Act (the “*Act*”), La. R.S. 37:2701 *et seq.*, was enacted in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare against the unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of social work. The Board was established as the regulatory authority authorized to adopt and revise rules necessary for the enforcement of the Act to establish ethical standards of practice.<sup>9</sup>

### **a. Proposed Amendment 46:XXV.301-Definitions**

The Board proposes amending § 301(A) to add or modify the following definitions:

1. Adjudicative hearing
2. Administrative complaint
3. Administrator

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<sup>4</sup> LA R.S. 49:260 (B)

<sup>5</sup> LA R.S. 49:260 G(4)

<sup>6</sup> LA R.S. 49:260 (G)(4)

<sup>7</sup> LA R.S. 49:951 (8)

<sup>8</sup> Black’s Law Dictionary, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition p. 116

<sup>9</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(1)

4. Applicant
5. Chairperson or Chair
6. Client
7. Complainant
8. Compliance hearing
9. Consent discipline
10. En Banc panel
11. General Counsel
12. Hearing Panel
13. Interlocutory
14. Licensee
15. Person
16. Practice Act
17. Prosecuting officer
18. Provisional dismissal
19. Respondent
20. Social Work Educator
21. Social work services

In addition the Board proposes adding §301(B) which states that definitions in §301(A) generally apply to this Part. If a term is defined differently in another Chapter, that definition applies only within the Chapter in which it appears.

The Board is authorized to adopt and revise rules necessary for the enforcement of the Act.<sup>10</sup> The proposed amendment establishes definitions for commonly used terms and does not have any reasonably foreseeable effects that would create a market barrier to entry or restrict the continued practice of social work. Accordingly, the Proposed Amendment constitutes a rule governing the practice of social work rather than an occupational regulation with anticompetitive effects.

Therefore, the Proposed Amendment does not require input from the OLRP pursuant to LA R.S. 49:260, and the Board may proceed with promulgation of this amendment in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

**b. Proposed Amendment LAC 46:XXV.305-Qualifications for Registration, Certification, and Licensure**

The Board proposes amending §305(C)(2) to remove the requirement that a certified social worker (CSW) must sit for the licensed master social work (LMSW) examination within six months of certification. The Board also proposes amending §305(D) to reduce the number of hours of supervised postgraduate social work practice required to obtain licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), to be consistent with La. R.S. 37:2708 (A)(3). During the 2021 regular session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 215, which amended La. R.S. 37:2708(A)(3) to

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<sup>10</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(1)

reduce the required supervised postgraduate practice hours from 5,760 to 3,000 hours, to be completed over a minimum of two years and a maximum of four years.

Additionally, the Board proposes repealing §305(C)(4)-(5) to remove the requirement that a CSW who does not take the LMSW examination within the first six months of issuance, or fails to take the examination yearly, would have their certificate be subject to recall or recorded as invalid.

Lastly, the Board also proposes repealing §305 (D)(4) to remove the requirement that an applicant must submit documentation verifying at least 3,840 hours of supervised post graduate social work experience in accordance with the Board's supervision rules.

The Board is authorized to adopt and revise rules necessary for the enforcement of the Act<sup>11</sup> and to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the licenses of social workers.<sup>12</sup> Thus, the Board has the statutory authority to establish when a social worker must take a qualifying examination, reduce the number of supervised hours needed to obtain licensure, and repeal §305(c)(4)-(5) and (D)(4).

While licensing and permitting requirements can function as barriers to market entry by reducing the pool of eligible practitioners, the Proposed Amendments to §305 would likely reduce these barriers by imposing less restrictions on CSWs to sit for the LMSW examination and reducing the necessary supervised hours for an applicant to be eligible for LCSW licensure.

Additionally, the reduction in the requirements to obtain licensure is likely to increase the number of LMSWs and LCSWs in the state. This change may assist in enhancing the public's access to services including those in underserved or rural communities. Thus, the Proposed Amendment adheres to a clearly articulated state policy by enabling qualified social workers to enter the field more efficiently.

The OLRP finds that the Proposed Amendments to §305 are within the Board's statutory authority and adhere to clearly articulated state policy. Therefore, the Board may promulgate this rule in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

### **c. Proposed Amendment LAC 46:XXV.307-Administration of Examination**

The Board proposes adding §307(E) to permit early testing for students in their final semester of graduate school and LMSWs in their final six months of supervision. This proposal would allow students to request approval to sit for the LMSW examination during their final semester and authorize LMSWs that have completed at least 75 hours of supervision to request approval to sit for the LCSW examination during their final six months of supervision.

The Board has the statutory authority to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the licenses, certificates, or registrations of (i) licensed clinical social workers, (ii) licensed master's social workers, (iii) certified social workers, and (iv) registered social workers.<sup>13</sup> Thus, the Board has the statutory authority to establish requirements for early testing eligibility.

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<sup>11</sup> LA R.S.37:2705 (C)(1)

<sup>12</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(2)

<sup>13</sup> Id.

Licensing and permitting requirements can function as barriers to market entry by reducing the pool of eligible practitioners, by imposing mandatory qualifications, fees, and procedural requirements. By establishing requirements for when a candidate may be eligible for early testing, the Board is shortening the delay between graduation and licensure, thereby allowing these newly licensed professionals to enter the workforce more quickly. This change promotes efficiency while maintaining standards of professional competence.

Thus, the Proposed Amendment adheres to clearly articulated state policy by ensuring that only competent, qualified, tested individuals are licensed to practice.

Because the Proposed Amendment is within the Board's statutory authority and adheres to clearly articulated state policy, the Board may proceed with promulgation as drafted in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

#### **d. Proposed Amendments LAC 46: XXV. 309-Application Procedure**

The Board asserts the Proposed Amendments to §309 are necessary to make the rules consistent with the procedures for electronic applications. The Board is proposing the following amendments to:

- (i) §309(A) requires applications to be completed electronically;
- (ii) §309(D) adds "required documents" to be included with the application to be "submitted" rather than "receive;"
- (iii) §309(E) clarifies that incomplete applications are not considered submitted;
- (iv) §309(G) provides that applicants are responsible for submitting all documentation required by LAC 46:XXV.305, La. R.S. 37:2706, 2707, 2708, or 2724;
- (v) §309(H)-(K) repealed;
- (vi) §309(M) repeals the requirement that the Board must receive official transcripts directly from an accredited university;
- (vii) §309(O) clarifies that the initial social work credentials issued three months prior to the renewal deadline are not required to be renewed for the next fiscal year;
- (viii) §309(P)(1) clarifies that §309 is applicable to all applications and requires the applicant to submit documentation in compliance with La. R.S. art. 37:2950;
- (ix) §309(P)(2)(b) repeals the requirement for an applicant to provide the contact information of the judge who imposed the sentence and presided at trial;
- (x) §309(P)(2)(f) replaces the word "basic" with "basis;"
- (xi) §309(P)(3)(a)-(d) repeals subparts regarding BSEs and MSMs being aware of delays for providing requested information to the Board, providing false or misleading information or failing to cooperate shall form a basis for the denial of the application, and the intent requesting a compliance shall form a basis for the denial of the application, timeline of applicant requesting a compliance hearing due to the denial of their application, and the intent requesting information is to evaluate the applicant's application;
- (xii) §309(P)(4) adds the word "calendar;" and
- (xiii) §309(P)(5) adds the word "either."

Pursuant to its statutory authority under the Social Work Practice Act, the Board is empowered to adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement and enforce the Act.<sup>14</sup> The Proposed Amendments to §309 make clarifying edits, repeal entire subparts, or establish rules governing the practice of social work. These changes pertain to administrative practices rather than professional qualifications or market participation, and therefore, do not constitute occupational regulations with any foreseeable anti-competitive effects.

Accordingly, the Proposed Amendments to §309 do not require input from the OLRP pursuant to La. R.S. 49:260, and the Board may proceed with promulgation of §309 as drafted in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

**e. Proposed Amendments LAC 46: XXV. 311-Renewal notice requirements for LCWs supervising CSWs**

The Board proposes repealing §311(A) to eliminate the requirement that renewal notices be mailed on or before July 1 of each year, as well as §311(C) through §311(G) relative to license renewals. The Board is empowered to adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement and enforce the Act.<sup>15</sup> Thus, the Board possesses the statutory authority to repeal these sections of Chapter 3.

Additionally, the Board proposes amending §311(B) to require LCSWs to provide a list of any LMSWs or CSWs under their supervision for licensure and to list the agency setting in which the LMSWs or CSWs are practicing. While this proposed amendment adds a reporting requirement for LCSWs, it does not expand or limit the pool of eligible practitioners and therefore does not constitute an occupational regulation with any foreseeable anti-competitive effects. Rather, it is a rule governing the practice of social work. Therefore, the Board may proceed with promulgation of the Proposed Amendments to §311 without any further input from the OLRP.

**f. Proposed Amendments LAC 46: XXV. 313-Fees**

The Proposed Amendment to §313 seeks to increase renewal fees for LCSWs, CSWs, LMSWs, and RSWs, increase fees for late renewals, and written verification of licenses, certificates, and registrations, and include the current e-commerce fee in the rule. The Proposed Amendment also removes the fee for reissuing a lost or duplicate identification card and postage for shipping and handling for mailing lists now sent electronically.

The Board is authorized to establish a reasonable fee schedule for examinations, applications, reexaminations, renewal, or reissuance of any license, certificate, or registration, or for any other administrative function.<sup>16</sup> However, La. Const. art. VII, § 2.1 (A) requires that any new fee or increase in an existing fee, assessed by the Board, be approved by two-thirds of the legislature.

The Board proposes increasing the following:

- (i) renewal fee for LCSW from \$75 to \$100,

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<sup>14</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(1)

<sup>15</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(1)

<sup>16</sup> LA R.S. 37:2716(A)(1)

- (ii) renewal fee for LMSW and CSW from \$50 to \$100,
- (iii) renewal fee for RSW from \$25 to \$50,
- (iv) lapsed renewal fee for LCSW from \$150 to \$200,
- (v) lapsed renewal fee for LMSW and CSW from \$100 to \$200,
- (vi) lapsed renewal fee for RSW from 50 to \$100, and
- (vii) written verification of license, certification or registration fee from \$5 to \$25.

According to the statutory fee schedule, the Board is authorized to increase the renewal fee for any license, certificate, or registration to not more than \$100 per renewal.<sup>17</sup> Notably, the fee schedule does not establish a fee amount for lapsed renewals.

The potential conflict between a statutorily authorized fee schedule and an article of the state's constitution, which requires increases in fees to be approved by a majority vote of the legislature, is similar to an opinion that was requested from this office by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners ("**LPN Board**"). The LPN Board requested an opinion to determine whether Article VII, Section 2.1(A) prevents the LPN Board from raising fees without going back to the legislature for approval where the fees are within the range specified by statute.<sup>18</sup> After a review of applicable laws, this office opined that because the statute that established the range of fees was enacted by a two-thirds vote of the legislature, the LPN Board could raise fees, within the range prescribed by statute without further legislative approval.<sup>19</sup>

Therefore, it is within the Board's statutory authority to increase the renewal fees for LCSW, LMSW, CSW and RSW to \$100 because LA R.S. 37:2716(2)(c) was enacted by majority of the legislature to establish a fee range that authorizes the Board to increase the renewal fees up to \$100.

Additionally, the Proposed Amendment seeks to raise the lapsed renewal fees for LCSW, LMSW, and CSW to \$200 and for RSW to \$100. Although, the Board has the statutory authority to establish a reasonable fee schedule for renewals,<sup>20</sup> La. Const. Art. VII, Section 2.1(A) requires that any new fee or an increase in an existing fee that is assessed by the Board, be approved by two-thirds of the legislature.

The Board is authorized under La. R.S. 37:2716 to establish a reasonable fee schedule for renewal or reissuance of any license, certificate, or registration. Further, the Board is statutorily limited by La. R.S. 37:2716(A)(2) to the maximum amounts prescribed for applications, reexaminations, renewals, and reissuances. However, the statutory schedule does not include a category for lapsed renewal fees. Because the proposed increases to the lapsed renewal fees for LCSWs, LMSWs, and CSWs to \$200 and for RSWs to \$100 exceed the statutory range for renewals and are not expressly authorized by statute, they are considered new or increased fees under La. Const. art VII, §2.1(A). Accordingly, while the OLRP finds that the Board has the general authority to establish a reasonable fee schedule and administer renewal processes;<sup>21</sup> legislative approval by two thirds of

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<sup>17</sup> LA R.S. 37:2716(2)(c)

<sup>18</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 06-0135 (La. A.G.), 2006 WL 2849626

<sup>19</sup> Id

<sup>20</sup> LA R.S. 37:2716(A)(1)

<sup>21</sup> La R.S. 37:2716(A)(1)

the Legislature may be required prior to promulgation of the proposed lapsed renewal fee increases. Commentary on the potential conflict between a statute and an article of the state's constitution is beyond the purview of the OLRP.

The Board also seeks to increase the written verification of licenses, certificates, or registration fees from \$5 to \$25. The Board is authorized to establish a reasonable fee schedule for any administrative function;<sup>22</sup> however, La. Const. Article VII, Section 2.1(A) requires that any new fee or an increase in an existing fee that is assessed by the Board be approved by two-thirds of the Legislature. Therefore, while the OLRP finds that the Board has the statutory authority to raise the written verification fee, legislative approval may also be required prior to promulgation.

The Board also seeks to remove the fee for reissuing a lost or duplicate identification card and postage for shipping and handling. Since the removal of the reissuing fee and postage and shipping fee are not increases to existing fees nor a new fee, it does not create a conflict with Article VII, Section 2.1(A). Therefore, the Board may proceed with the removal of the reissuance and postage fees.

Lastly, the Board proposes the inclusion of the current \$3 e-commerce fee into the rule. Although the statute does not expressly include the \$3 e-commerce charge, the fee represents a direct administrative cost associated with electronic payment processing rather than a new source of Board revenue. It does not confer or restrict any licensing privilege, nor is it assessed as a condition of licensure or renewal. Accordingly, the e-commerce fee is considered an administrative charge within the Board's existing statutory authority and is not a "new fee" that may be subject to the two-thirds legislative approval requirement under La. Const. art. VII, §2.1(A).

While licensing, certification, and registration fees may create financial barriers to market entry for practitioners, the revenue generated may be used to accomplish the Board's regulatory oversight and administrative processes. These fees help ensure that social workers are properly vetted, monitored, and held to professional standards, thereby safeguarding public safety, health, and welfare.

The OLRP finds that the Proposed Amendment to §313 is within the Board's statutory authority and adheres to clearly articulated state policy. Therefore, the Board may proceed with promulgation of the amendment as drafted; however, legislative approval may be required for the proposed increases to the lapsed renewal and written verification fees.

#### **g. Proposed Amendment LAC 46: XXV.317- Continuing Education Requirements**

The Board proposes repealing §317 and redesignating its provisions under a newly promulgated Chapter 13, entitled "Continuing Education Requirements." Pursuant to its statutory authority under the Social Work Practice Act, the Board is empowered to adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement and enforce the Act.<sup>23</sup> Accordingly, the Board possesses the statutory authority to repeal §317 and relocate its provisions within Chapter 13 to provide clearer organization and administrative efficiency

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<sup>22</sup> Id.

<sup>23</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(1)



Because the Proposed Amendment constitutes a structural and organizational revision rather than a change affecting licensure or market participation it does not have any reasonably foreseeable anticompetitive effects.

Therefore, the Board may proceed with promulgation of the Proposed Amendment to §317 in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

#### **h. Proposed Amendment LAC 46: XXV.319- Reciprocity and Endorsement**

The Board proposes amending §319 to permit the licensure, certification, or registration of a social worker credentialed in another state, territory, commonwealth, or district. The amendment also requires the social worker seeking Louisiana credentials bear the burden of establishing that the state, territory, commonwealth, or district in which they are credentialed has substantially equivalent educational, supervision, and examination requirements to those of Louisiana.

Additionally, the Board proposes repealing §319(C)(1)-(7) which outlines the circumstances under which the Board may waive the written examination requirement for those seeking reciprocity, as well as the requirement that such applicants present evidence the he or she meets the qualifications of La. R.S. 37:2701-2723.

Currently, the rule states that reciprocity for credentials are permissible as approved by the Board and the social worker seeking reciprocity must present evidence that he or she has equivalent qualifying credentials.<sup>24</sup>

The Board's Proposed Amendment has incorporated the requirement of placing the burden of proving that the state, territory, commonwealth, or district of the reciprocity seeking social worker has equivalent credentialing requirements into §319 (B). The Board is authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement and enforce the Act.<sup>25</sup> As such, the Board has the statutory authority to repeal §319(C)(1)-(7) and to make structural and clarifying revisions. These changes do not constitute as an occupational regulation with any foreseeable anti-competitive effect, as they are procedural and administrative amendments.

Therefore, the Board may proceed with promulgation of the Proposed Amendment to §319 without any further input from the OLRP.

#### **i. Proposed Amendment LAC 46: XXV.325- Inactive Status**

The Board proposes the enactment of §325 to allow social workers to maintain an inactive status license while not actively practicing social work by completing one-half of the required continuing education hours instead of allowing the license to lapse and reinstate the license prior to returning to practice.

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<sup>24</sup> LAC 46: XXV.319(C)(2)

<sup>25</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(1)

The Board has the statutory authority to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the licenses, certifications, and registrations of social workers within the state<sup>26</sup> and to establish requirements for continuing education.<sup>27</sup> Thus, the Board has the statutory authority establish criteria for maintaining an inactive license status.

Ongoing professional development reduces the risk of harm and enhances the overall quality and safety of services delivered. By reducing the continuing education requirement for social workers in inactive status, the Proposed Amendment increases the likelihood that practitioners are kept up to date with knowledge, skills, and ethical standards of the profession before seeking reinstatement. Thus, the proposed amendment aligns with clearly articulated state policy and is within the Board's aforementioned discretionary powers.

The OLRP finds that the Proposed Amendments §325 are within the Board's statutory authority and adheres to clearly articulated state policy, and therefore the Board may promulgate the rule in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

#### **j. Proposed Amendment LAC 46: XXV.327- Emeritus Status**

Lastly, the Board proposing enacting §327 to allow social workers to maintain a license in emeritus (retired) status when at least 60 years old, or designated as disabled after licensure for 15 years, or after licensure for 30 years at any age. The renewal fee is one-half of the applicable renewal fee of an active license and the continuing education requirements are one-half of the 20 hours required for active licensure to allow social workers to provide certain services through volunteer work.

The Board has the statutory authority to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the licenses, certifications, and registrations of social workers within the state<sup>28</sup> and to establish requirements for continuing education.<sup>29</sup> The Board is further authorized to establish a reasonable fee schedule for examinations, applications, reexaminations, renewal, or reissuance of any license, certificate, or registration.<sup>30</sup>

As discussed above, La Const. art. VII, § 2.1 (A) requires that any new fee or an increase in an existing fee, that is assessed by the Board, be approved by two-thirds of the legislature. However, La Const. art. VII, § 2.1 (A) is not applicable to this Proposed Amendment because the Board is not seeking to establish a new fee or increase an existing fee, but is reducing an already legislatively approved renewal fee by one-half. Therefore, the Board has the statutory authority to grant emeritus status, establish relative continuing education requirements, and reduce the renewal fee.

Moreover, by reducing the continuing education requirements and reducing the renewal fee by one-half, the Board is reducing barriers to a retired or disabled social worker's ability to practice. The Proposed Amendment increases the likelihood that a social worker would elect to maintain a

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<sup>26</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(2)

<sup>27</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (G)

<sup>28</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (C)(2)

<sup>29</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705 (G)

<sup>30</sup> LA R.S. 37:2716(A)(1)

license in emeritus status and opt to engage in voluntary services instead of retiring, thus increasing the number of licensed social workers in the state and furthering clearly articulated state policy.

The OLRP finds that the Proposed Amendments §327 are within the Board's statutory authority and adhere to clearly articulated state policy, and therefore the Board may promulgate the rule in accordance with the Louisiana APA.

### **III. DETERMINATION**

The Board is a state regulatory body created by the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare against the unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of social work.<sup>31</sup> The Board was established as a regulatory authority authorized to adopt and revise rules necessary for the enforcement of the Act, including the establishment of ethical and professional standards.<sup>32</sup>



The Proposed Amendments to LAC 46:XXV.301 et seq. are within the Board's statutory authority and adhere to clearly articulated state policy. Accordingly, the Proposed Amendments are approved as submitted by the Attorney General, through the OLRP. The Board may proceed with the adoption of the Proposed Amendments, subject to potential legislative approval where required by law.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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<sup>31</sup> LA R.S. 37:2701

<sup>32</sup> LA R.S. 37:2705