

**Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER: H380

TITLE: An Act establishing the social work licensure compact in Massachusetts

SPONSOR(S): Rep. Kenneth Gordon and Rep. James O’Day

HEARING DATE: September 8, 2025

REPORTING DEADLINE: November 7, 2025

CURRENT LAW

Sections 130 to 137, inclusive, of Chapter 112 of the Massachusetts General Laws governs the licensing of certified social workers by the Board of Registration of Social Workers to provide services to individuals, couples, families, groups, and communities directed towards specific goals.

Sections 80 through 84, inclusive, of Chapter 13 of the General Laws governs the Board of Registration of Social Work which regulates the practice, determines eligibility for admission to examinations, conducts examinations, and licenses qualified individuals at one of four levels of social work licensure (Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, LICSW; Licensed Certified Social Worker, LCSW; Licensed Social Worker, LSW; Licensed Social Work Associate, LSWA).

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to add the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the interstate licensure compact for social work, currently comprised of Missouri, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Kentucky, Virginia, and Kansas. By joining the compact, it would allow licensed social workers in good standing in Massachusetts to be eligible for a multistate social work license to practice in other states that are members of the compact and allowing social workers from other states who are holders of said multistate license to practice in Massachusetts. This legislation would not affect the process of acquiring and issuing a Massachusetts single-state license for social work.

All member states that participate in the compact are required to have baseline requirements for licensees and for the licensing process. Candidates for multistate licensure must: be licensed in the practice of social work in their home state, have at least a master's degree in social work for a master's-level license, or at least a bachelor's degree for a bachelor's level license, fulfill 2 years or 3000 hours of supervised clinical practice, and pass a national exam. All licensure candidates are also required to pay any fee required and submit fingerprints or other biometric data for the purpose of a criminal background check. The licensing authorities of the compact member-states are required to join a multistate network for the purpose of sharing licensing and disciplinary information, including any adverse action taken against a licensee. The licensing authorities of member-states are also responsible for assessing eligibility for multistate licenses and collecting any associated fees.

Further, a "Social Work Licensure Compact Commission" consisting of one delegate from each of the compact member-states, as selected by the state's licensing authority, shall meet at least once annually, and is responsible for establishing rules and bylaws, including term limits, and maintaining records, preparing a budget, and developing and maintaining the multistate network to which the member-states are required to report information. The Commission is also responsible for mediating any disputes between compact member-states.