



2024 NJSCSW Benefits/Legislative Efforts

Current Legislative Agenda

Luba Shagawat, Director of Legislative Affairs.

Social Work Licensure Compact:

Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald has introduced the Social Work Licensure Compact - Assembly Bill 5349.

https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A9999/5349_I1.PDF

After serious consideration, the NJSCSW board has decided to support this endeavor and has instructed our lobbyist to follow through with his earlier advocacy. The Social Work Compact, which would be joining eight other health care Compacts, will benefit consumers, licensure boards, and the social work profession by: Enhancing mobility for clinical social workers who meet the Compact uniform licensure requirements; Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their social work licenses when relocating; and preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

The Social Work Compact will allow LCSWs to work in other states without having to become licensed in these states under the following conditions:

If the LCSW's home state joins the Compact (In this case NJ)

If the LCSW then joins the Compact as an individual

If the LCSW has no actionable complaints

Telemedicine:

Since the Telemedicine Bill (S2559) was signed into law, clinical social workers are able to continue to work remotely. NJSCSW's lobbyist will continue to monitor any Telehealth related issues that may arise.

Continuing Education

We are happy to announce that the NJ Board of Social Work Examiners is at the **FINAL STEP** of implementing the changes voted on regarding the expansion of CE opportunities for NJ Social Workers. In February of 2020 NJSCSW advocated for changes regarding limitations that existed in the continuing education rules and regulations. This action was taken as a direct result from complaints received by NJSCSW's members.

Concerned about Confidentiality?

The members of NJSCSW are all well aware of our conflicts with regard to maintaining our client's confidentiality when insurers request more than our social work regulations allow. Often times we are asked to provide information about our clients that is prohibited by our Board of Social Work Examiners' rules and regulations. We cannot allow insurance companies to violate our regulations on confidentiality. These regulations are clearly defined by the NJ Board of Social Work Examiners.

When our early attempts to remedy this conflict failed, the NJSCSW decided that the only solution was a legislative one. Therefore, we took action.

In June 2022 the Confidentiality Bill passed the full Senate and is presently in the Financial Institution Committee of the Assembly (A3514). NJSCSW's lobbyist is working to get a final hearing on the bill.

To view the bill click on this link:

https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A4000/3514_I1.PDF

Lobbying Efforts

We are asking our members to please make a donation to help us with this cause.

NJSCSW will continue to fight for confidentiality legislation and other issues that affect how we practice clinical social work. It is because of our lobbying efforts that we are able to make inroads in the area of legislation that impact our industry. For information on where to send a donation, email Jan Markham, NJSCSW's Administrative Assistant, at jan@1destin.com.