



**NORTH CAROLINA  
SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE BOARD**

PO Box 1043  
Asheboro, NC 27204

Website: [www.ncswboard.gov](http://www.ncswboard.gov)

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February 28, 2025

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

Email: [govops@ncleg.net](mailto:govops@ncleg.net)

Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee

Email: [Virginia.barlow@ncleg.gov](mailto:Virginia.barlow@ncleg.gov)

*Via email and <https://sites.ncleg.gov/govops/report-submission/>*

Re: Report on Regulatory Flexibility  
Section 4E.1 of SL 2024-53

Dear Committee Members,

The North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board (the “Board”) hereby submits this report on its use of regulatory flexibility, in accordance with Section 4E.1 of Session Law 2024-53.

Board Overview

As an occupational licensing board created by North Carolina General Statute, the Board regulates the licensure of social work practitioners; oversees compliance by licensees with the Board’s governing statutes and administrative rules; and protects public consumers by setting standards for qualification, training, and experience for those who seek to represent themselves to the public as certified social workers or licensed clinical social workers. Further, the Board oversees compliance by promoting high standards of professional performance for those engaged in the practice of social work in accordance with Chapter 90B, the Social Worker Certification and Licensure Act, North Carolina General Statutes.

The Board licenses approximately 17,842 active practitioners engaged in the practice of social work.

The Board’s organization is composed of a 7-member panel appointed by the Governor; including five members representing the social work profession and two public members.

Session Law 2024-53

Promulgated in October 2024, Session Law 2024-53 provides in Section 4E.1(b) that:

Notwithstanding any other provision of State law, if a State agency determines that, due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene in the affected area, it is in the public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-



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being of the citizens and businesses of the affected area, the agency shall do all of the following:

- (1) Delay the renewal dates of employment-related certifications issued by the agency pursuant to its statutes for residents of the affected area.
- (2) Delay or modify any educational or examination requirements for employment-related certifications implemented by the agency pursuant to its statutes for residents of the affected area.

In this legislation, the General Assembly directed each State agency in the executive branch of government in North Carolina, no later than March 1, 2025, to report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on its use of regulatory flexibility under this Section 4E.

### Board Implementation of Session Law 2024-53

Since October 2024, the Board has implemented the directives of SL 2024-53 in the following ways:

- N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90B-9(a) provides that “all certificates and licenses, excluding temporary licenses, shall be effective upon date of issuance by the Board, and shall be renewed on or before the expiration date of the certificate or license.” The Board extended the expiration date of all licensees residing in affected areas, as that term is defined in SL 2024-53, until March 1, 2025 without penalty to align with the expiration date of Section 4E of SL 2024-53.
- N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90B-9(b) provides that as a prerequisite to the renewal of a license, prior to the expiration date, the licensee must provide “evidence of completion of the continuing education requirements established by the Board pursuant to G.S. 90B-6(g).” The Board allowed all licensees residing in affected areas to delay completion of continuing education requirements necessary for renewal of licensure through March 1, 2025. Additionally, the Board waived the in-person requirement for continuing education for these licensees.
- N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90B-9(b) provides that “if the application for renewal of a certificate or license is not received by the Board office on or before the close of business on the day prior to the expiration date of the license, an additional fee shall be charged for late renewal as provided in G.S. 90B-6.2(a)(5).” The Board waived the late fee of all licensees residing in affected areas.



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- The Board recognizes the importance of flexibility and consideration in its decision-making processes and is committed to exercising leniency as needed granting exceptions upon request, to include waiving the in-person requirement for clinical supervision which allowed licensees to meet virtually beyond the fifty (50) allotted hours; expediting processing of temporary license applications for out of state clinical social work practitioners; and extending exam eligibility expiration dates for licensees who were scheduled for examination.

Should you require additional or more detailed information concerning this report, I am glad to respond as necessary.

Best regards,

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