

Letter Report:

West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners.

PERD's Objectives:

The objective was to conduct a performance audit of the provisional license to practice as a social worker and the application process by which a provisional licensee may become a licensed social worker.

Key Recommendations:

The individuals who completed the four-year training program designed by DHHR should be eligible to take the national exam within their college education level by the effective date of the bill or by June 30, 2020.

Senate Bill 559, which passed on March 9, 2015, requested a performance audit of the provisional license to practice as a social worker and the application process by which a provisional licensee may become a licensed social worker.

What Did PERD Find?

Senate Bill 312, which passed on March 5, 2020, eliminated the non-related degree social worker, and eliminated the ability of those individuals with a related and non-related degree to complete the four-year training program designed by Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) to become a licensed social worker by the extended June 30, 2020, date. According to DHHR, there were 48 individuals who had the opportunity to complete the program by June 30, 2020. Of the 48 individuals, 18 completed 100 percent of the training program, 11 of those have a non-related degree, 2 have a social work degree and 5 have a related degree. The remaining 30 individuals did not complete the program.

- A 2015 Senate Bill passed creating a path to social work licensure for those with related and non-related degrees who worked within DHHR.
- DHHR restricted provisional licensees could become eligible for social work licensure by completing the required continuing education and four-year training program.
- Eighteen provisional licensees completed the training program.
- The Legislative Auditor believes those that completed the training program should be eligible to take the national exam.
- In a January 5, 2021, letter the Board indicated "...while we do not fully agree, we will nonetheless comply with your recommendation."