**02-416**

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE**

2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: 02-416

AGENCY NAME: Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional & Occupational Regulation, **Board of Social Worker Licensure**

CONTACT INFORMATION for thE agency **RULEMAKING LIAISON**: Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-441-7153, penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None.

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY**:

Expected rulemaking will be to implement telehealth services and scope of practice changes. A review for conformance with statutes and current rules will be conducted and updated as may be necessary, including an update to discontinue the use of the terms “handicap,” “handicapped” and “hearing impaired” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 2557, sub-§2.

**CHAPTER 10**: **Definitions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 7001-A, 7030(2)

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise the terms used in these rules.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 11**: **Advisory Rulings**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 M.R.S. §§ 8051, 9001(4)

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise the provision that allows for the Board’s discretionary issuance of advisory rulings.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 12**: **Licensure by Endorsement**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 7030(2); 10 M.R.S. § 8003-H

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise the rule establishing the pathway for applicants in a U.S. jurisdiction that maintains licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to Maine’s requirements.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 13**: **Licensure**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 7030(2), 7053, 7057 and 7060

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise the requirements for the various types of social work licenses.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 14**: **Continuing Professional Education**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 7030(5)

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise the continuing professional education requirements for social workers.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 15**: **Scope of Practice**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 7001-A(11), 7053-A

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise the permissible scope-of-practice provisions applicable to the various licensure types issued by the board, and related provisions.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 16**: **Code of Ethics and Grounds for Discipline**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 7030(2), 7059

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise its rules regarding the adopted code of ethics and the board's interpretation of certain grounds for discipline contained in 10 M.R.S. 8003(

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 17**: **Record Retention Requirements**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 7030(2)

PURPOSE: The board may review and revise is existing rules with regard to retaining client records by licensees.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 18**: **Telehealth**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 7030(2), 7071

PURPOSE: This Chapter implements the provisions of P.L. 2021, c. 291 (32 M.R.S. §§ 7071 *et seq.*) by establishing standards of practice and appropriate restrictions for when social workers use telehealth to provide services to clients.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A