

Advancing the Social Work Licensure Compact HB 3503 Sparks/SB 1716 Johnson



Why Texas should pass the Social Work Licensure Compact

Economic Benefits

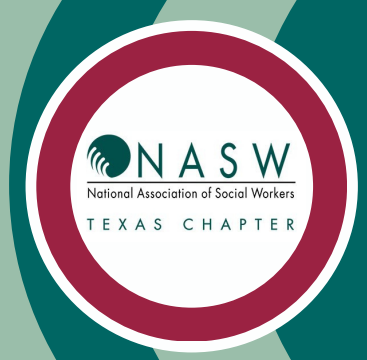
- Minimizing licensing obstacles boosts the appeal of working from Texas and serving Texas clients’.
- Increased mobility leads to higher wages due to elevated bargaining power.
 - As of 2023, there were 31,834 licensed social workers (including BSWs, MSWs, and LCSWs), while the state’s projected need was 56,431, resulting in a shortfall of 24,597 social workers. The data from the 2024 Workforce Supply and Demand Projection indicated a 27% unmet demand for social workers, which is expected to rise to 36% by 2036 if current trends continue.



Who Benefits?

<p>Social Workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced license mobility • Expanded job opportunities • Ability to leverage telehealth across state lines • Ability to ensure continuity of care for clients who move 	<p>Texans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses social work workforce shortages • Expanded consumer access to clinicians • Preserves state sovereignty
<p>Licensing Authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of administrative burdens • Rapid access to licensee information • Shortened processing times • Interstate cooperation 	<p>State Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline regulatory processes to reduce inefficiencies, increase cost savings and attract new workforce professionals. • Enhances market access benefits for consumers and professionals.

Advancing the Social Work Licensure Compact



What Is the Social Work Licensure Compact?

The Social Work Licensure Compact allows social workers to practice in multiple states without needing separate licenses. It permits social workers holding bachelor's, master's, and clinical licenses to offer services to clients in participating states. The Department of Defense initiated this compact, recognizing the vital services social workers provide and addressing the challenges faced by military families during frequent relocations.

Although initially tailored for military families, this compact extends its benefits to all licensed social workers within the state.

The Social Work Compact has been widely recommended in various workforce reports including;

- [The Children's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan \(SBHCC\)](#)
- [The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Social Work Workforce Study](#)
- [Meadows and Hopelab Mental Health Report](#)

Opportunities under the Social Work Interstate Compact

- Leverages advances in technology such as tele-practice to reach rural communities.
- Fiscally prudent approach to workforce development.
- Ensures public protection by empowering state licensing boards to cooperate on identifying bad actors.

Texas must pass the Social Work Licensure Compact to address critical needs across state borders, ensure continuity of care, integrate telehealth innovations, and provide flexibility for relocating military families.



For more information, please contact:

Bryan Mares, Government Relations Director, bmares.naswtx@socialworkers.org