

**2022 Legislative Update
Board of Social Work Examiners**

The following bill was enacted by the General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session and impacts the Board of Social Work Examiners and/or the Board of Social Work Examiners licensees:

Registration of Behavioral Telehealth Social Workers, [S.1179/Act 155](#)

The provisions of S.1179 add Section 40-63-35 to the social work practice act to define “behavioral telehealth” and to authorize Independent Social Workers-CP who hold an active license in another state to provide these services, to also provide these services using telehealth to a client located in this State, if the individual registers with the Board. To be eligible to register, the applicant must complete an application form, be licensed with an active, unencumbered license issued in another state as an Independent Social Worker-CP, have not been subject to disciplinary action related to his or her license during the prior 5 year period, and pay a \$10 fee. The Board shall publish on its website a list of all registrants and include specific information about the registrant. Each registrant consents, as a condition of registration, to the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the Board. Registrants cannot open an office or provide in-person services to a client in this State. *Individuals licensed by this State do not need to obtain a behavioral telehealth registration in order to provide behavioral telehealth services to a client residing in this State.* The Act further amends Section 40-63-30(B) of the social work practice act to clarify that a social worker licensed by this State may provide services through telephonic, electronic, or other means to a client in this State within their appropriate scope of practice.

Effective date: June 12, 2022, thirty days after approval of the Governor.

Disclaimer: This legislative update is not intended as legal advice. LLR is providing this legislative update to notify licensees of recently enacted legislation that may impact his or her practice area or license. This legislative update provides only a high level overview of enacted legislation and licensees are urged to review the entire enacted legislation, which is available in the hyperlinks above.