

SUPPORT HB 5184 & 5185

PROPOSED BILL CHANGES & RECENT DATA



63.9%

of Michigan's clinical social work candidates **failed** the ASWB exam in 2023.

(ASWB Pass Rate Summary Report, 2023)



95% of Michigan social workers who took an exam in 2023 took the Clinical exam, highlighting how these rates impact the majority of licensure candidates.

What will these bills do?



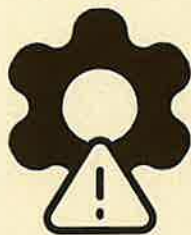
Restructure Michigan's Social Work licensing tiers to include Licensed Bachelor Social Worker (LBSW), Licensed Master Social worker (LMSW), and Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).



Remove the current ASWB exam requirement and replace with an open-book and more affordable state-specific exam.



Adjust the required supervision hours for a clinical license from 4,000 (the highest requirement in the country) to 3,000 hours with clearer supervision standards.



From 2018-2021, Michigan's Clinical level pass rate was **62.5%**. In 2023, after the state required all supervision hours before testing, the Clinical pass rate fell to **56.8%**.

For repeat test takers, the rate fell to a devastating **23.4%**, leaving many qualified candidates barred from licensure due to the current renewal maximums/ licensure tiers.



These proposed changes will put Michigan in line with how most other states are already structured.

DISPARITIES IN EXAM PERFORMANCE

The high failure rates reflect inequities within the exam process, impacting candidates from diverse backgrounds and limiting access to the profession for qualified individuals ready to serve Michigan's communities.



HBs 5184 & 5185 will expedite entry into the social work field, providing residents with faster and more equitable access to behavioral health services. This change prioritizes a licensure system that values real-world competency, empowering professionals who are well-prepared and practicing ethically to serve and support Michigan's diverse communities.

2023 pass rate summary report

Jurisdiction: Michigan
 Date: June 2024

The table presents the numbers of examinations administered to candidates who were authorized by the state or jurisdiction listed above. Figures indicate the percentage of first-time, repeat, and total test-takers who passed the indicated exam categories during the year 2023. Note that test-takers who are unsuccessful may repeat the examination more than once.

Exam category and group type	Total number of examinations	Pass rate	
		Number	Percent
Bachelors			
First-time	41	35	85.4
Repeat	36	15	41.7
Total	77	50	64.9
Masters			
First-time	0	0	-
Repeat	0	0	-
Total	0	0	-
Clinical			
First-time	767	436	56.8
Repeat	1,263	296	23.4
Total	2,030	732	36.1
Advanced Generalist			
First-time	25	12	48
Repeat	16	7	43.8
Total	41	19	46.3
Associate			
First-time	0	0	-
Repeat	0	0	-
Total	0	0	-