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## 2015 Board of Social Work Legislative Proposal Summary

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### **Public Safety Goals, and Benefits and Why Needed in 2015**

Passage of the Board's policy changes, and creation of two new fees, would have positive impact for the citizens of Minnesota, Board and licensees:

- Noncontroversial proposals; Board is not aware of any opposition
- Responds to mental health workforce shortages by creating a licensing option for retired social workers
- Better balances enforcement with violations by creating an administrative, non-disciplinary late fee
- Reduces legal expenditures, creates greater efficiencies, and expedites response time
- Creates two new fees to support the policies which are included in the Governor's FY 2016 – FY 2017 budget bill; limited fiscal impact of \$3000 in additional revenues per year

### **Proposal Highlights**

#### **1. Create new Emeritus Active License**

- Amend MS 148E.075 "Inactive Licenses" to create a new "active retired" license which authorizes volunteer and limited paid practice to increase pool of licensing supervisors
- Amend MS 148E.180 to add a new "Emeritus Active License" fee with incentive of 50% reduction in licensing fee
- **Goals:** Provides opportunity for "retired" licensed social workers to engage in: 1) pro bono or volunteer social work practice, or 2) paid social work practice not to exceed 240 billable hours per year for the exclusive purpose to provide licensing supervision to meet the board's requirements
- "Emeritus Active License" supports the goals of Minnesota Mental Health Workforce Development Plan

#### **2. Create new Late License Fee**

- Amend MS 148E.180 to add a new "license late fee" in subdivision 5
- **Goals:** Creates a new administrative fee as a non-disciplinary option to resolve some unlicensed practice cases of \$100 flat fee plus prorated monthly licensing fee for unlicensed period; reduces legal expenditures

#### **3. Repeal the Automatic "Ineligibility" Provision from the Temporary License**

- Amend MS 148E.060 by repealing subdivision 12, permitting a temporary license to be issued to a qualified applicant who has begun work in a social work position before applying for a temporary license
- **Goals:** Expedites authorized social work practice for new graduates, members of the military, and professionals relocating to Minnesota; creates a less restrictive temporary license while maintaining standards

### **Contact Information**

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