

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB178

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
 Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Gardner

3. **Committee:** Rules

4. **Title:** Social Work Advisory Board; established, report, sunset date.

5. **Summary:** Establishes the Social Work Advisory Board to advise the Governor on efforts to improve the social work profession in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Social Work Advisory Board to report annually by December 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding its activities and recommendations. The bill contains an expiration date of June 30, 2027.

An enactment clause establishes the staggering initial appointments of nonlegislative citizens members.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. See Item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$97,000	-	General fund
2026	\$62,000	-	General fund
2027	\$62,000	-	General fund
2028	-	-	-
2029	-	-	-
2030	-	-	-

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Assuming the Board meets four times a year, annual expenses for all 15 members and five ex officio members are estimated to be approximately \$12,000, based on travel costs for similar boards. These expenses include mileage, lodging, meals, and incidentals.

Additionally, the legislation states that the Board may require assistance from all agencies of the Commonwealth, upon request. Commonwealth employees called upon for assistance will likely incur travel costs, as well. Actual travel costs will depend on the number of times the Board actually meets. It is assumed that any increase in workload would be minimal and

could be absorbed within the current operating budget for each agency asked to provide assistance.

In addition, the bill gives the Board the power to “sponsor events and educational media outreach and programs.” A educational media campaign could include, but not be limited to, public service announcements, pamphlets, publications, press releases, posters, promotional items, graphic design materials, and market boards. Based on similar public outreach campaign estimates, these efforts are estimated to cost approximately \$85,000 in FY 2025 and \$50,000 each year thereafter to conduct a public educational media campaign for the targeted population.

The bill is silent on which agency or Secretariat is responsible for funding the Board.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Agencies of the Commonwealth, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.