

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5018

Board of Licensed Social Workers

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Ruiz

HB 5018 is the budget bill for the Board of Licensed Social Workers.

The Board sets policy, adopts rules, renews licenses annually and audits continuing education as part of the renewal process in the regulation of social workers.

The Education Subcommittee recommends a budget of \$3,122,120 Other Funds and nine positions (8.50 FTE), which is a 5.7% increase above the current service level budget.

The recommended budget includes a 20% fee increase, which is expected to generate \$392,977 in Other Funds revenue. The budget also includes increased expenditure limitation to extend a limited duration, full-time Office Specialist 2 position, to reduce application processing times. Additionally, the Subcommittee approved a budget note, directing the Board to return to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means in the 2026 session to report on a plan to acquire a new licensing system utilizing licensing revenue.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 5018 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.