

# **TEXAS SOCIAL WORK LICENSING**

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**Karen Magruder, LCSW**

# Presentation Outline

- Why get licensed
- Types of licenses in Texas
- Changes to process in Texas
- LBSW & LMSW process
- LCSW process
- Exam info
- Other practice recognitions
- Criminal History
- License reciprocity
- Renewal/ CEUs
- Contacting the Board



# DISCLAIMER

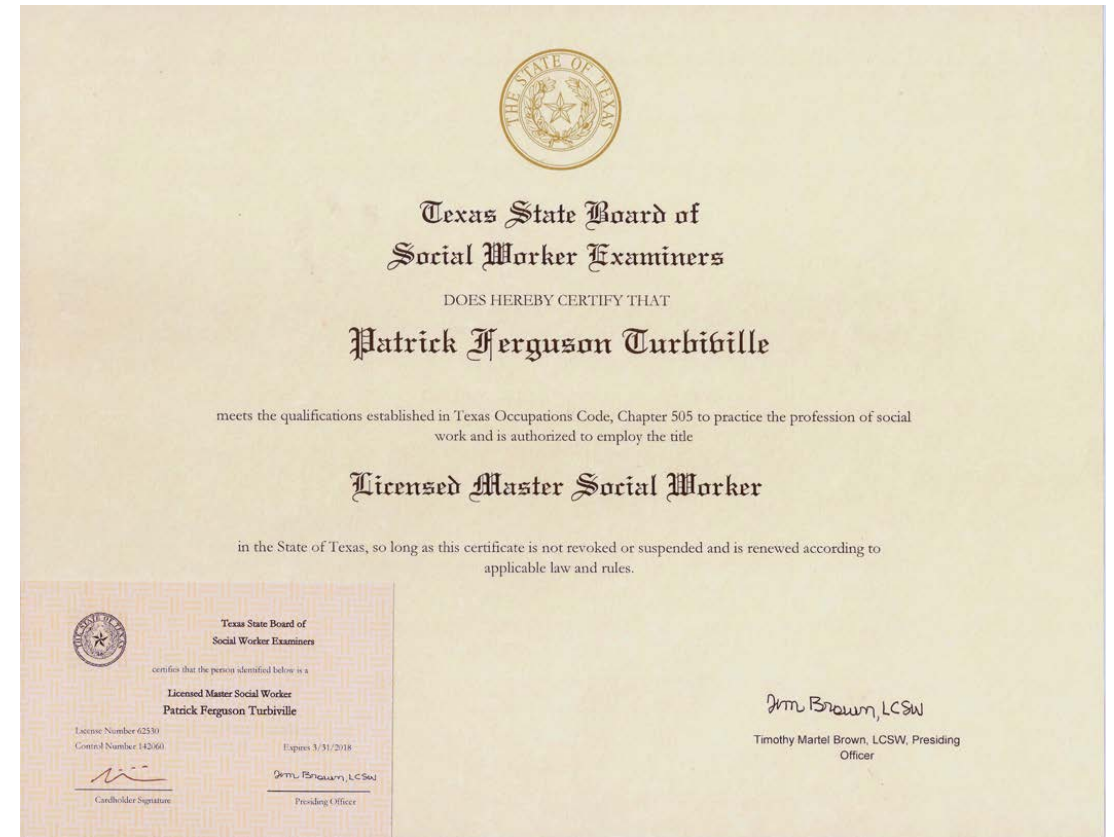
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Last Updated February 2021

- Not official product of TSBSWE, BHEC or NASW
- Always [contact BHEC](#) with questions, to verify this information, and check for updates

# Why do I need a license?

- Can legally call yourself a “social worker”
- “Licensed or registered social workers provide a practice backed by a legal guarantee—that service will be safe, competent, ethical, and responsible.” ([ASWB, 2020, p.1](#))
- Significant advantage in job market
- Indicates knowledge and professionalism
- Potential stigma associated with not being licensed



[Click here](#) to search/verify an existing license

# Types of Licenses in Texas

## Licenses

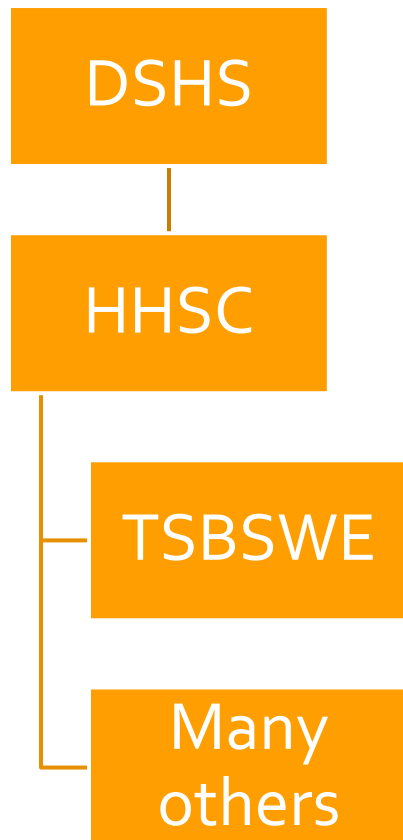
- LBSW
  - Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker
- LMSW
  - Licensed Master Social Worker
- LCSW
  - Licensed Clinical Social Worker

## Specialty Recognitions

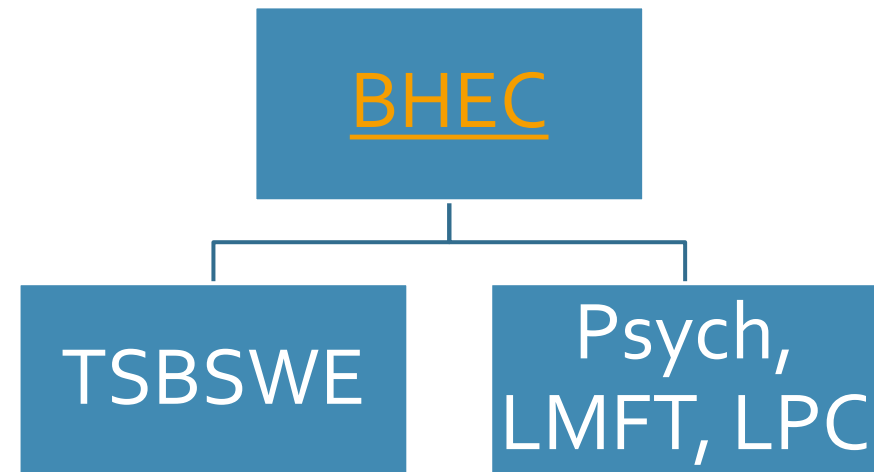
- LBSW-IPR
  - (Independent Practice Recognition)
- LMSW-IPR
- ~~LMSW-AP~~ (no longer conferred as of 9/2017)
- LCSW-S
  - (Supervisor)

# Changes to the Texas board process (Sep 1, 2020)

Before



Now



# How it used to be

## **Previous Application Process (2020)**

1. Apply to the board after graduation **or** in your last semester
  - a) Application packet included proof of Jurisprudence, Dean's letter, etc.
2. Wait to get approval from board, and then
3. Apply for and take ASWB exam

# New Process of LBSW *and* LMSW in 2021

## Register for ASWB Exam

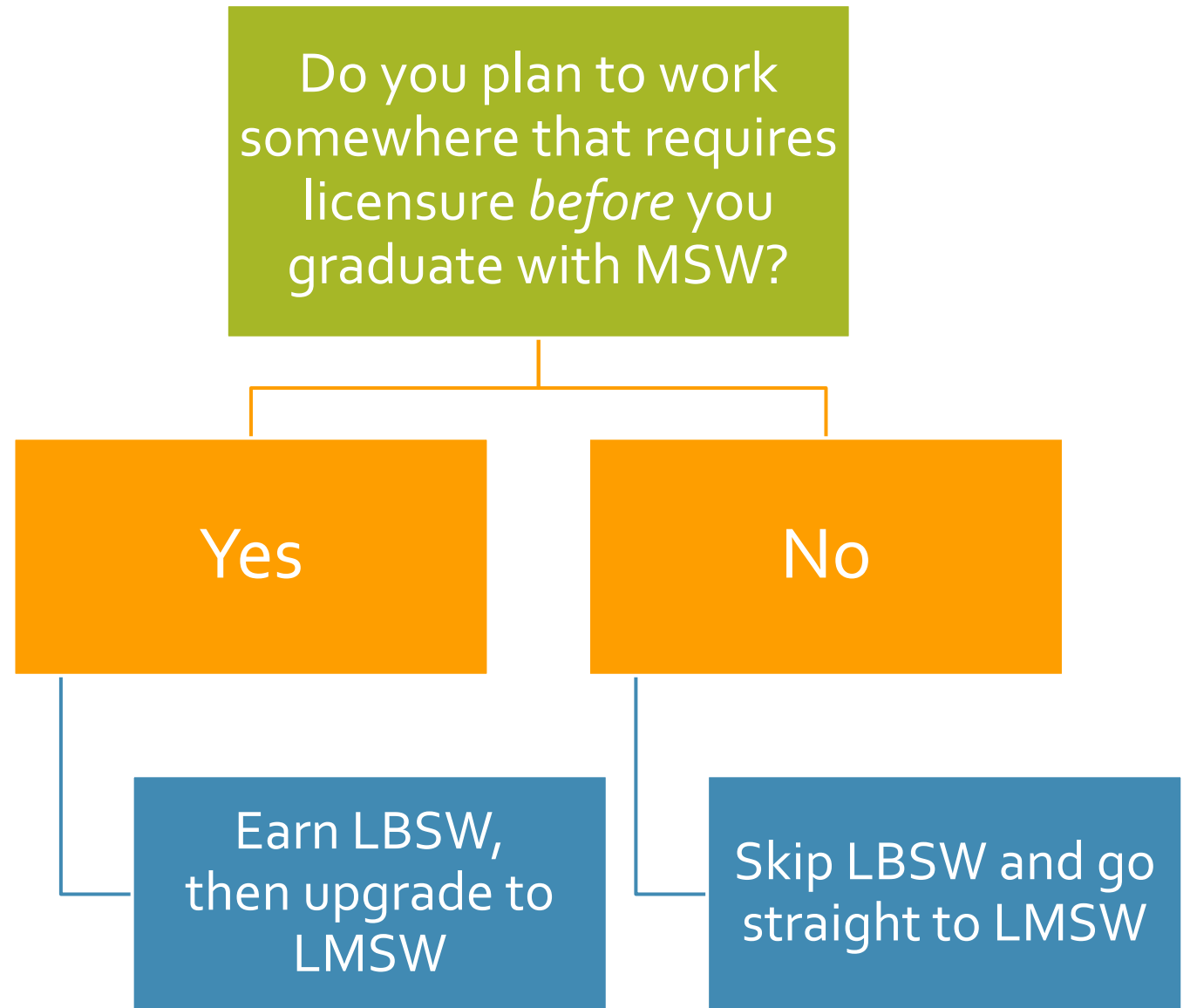
1. You now [register for ASWB exam](#) first
2. Get either
  1. Official transcripts (after graduating) or,
  2. Letter from SW program verifying in last semester send directly to [info@aswb.org](mailto:info@aswb.org)
3. Take exam at PearsonVue testing center

## Applying for License with the Board

1. Apply using [online system](#)
2. Must have:
  1. Graduated with your degree from a CSWE-accredited university
  2. Passed ASWB exam
  3. Passed [Jurisprudence exam](#)
  4. Fingerprints



What if I'm going straight into my MSW with advanced standing status?

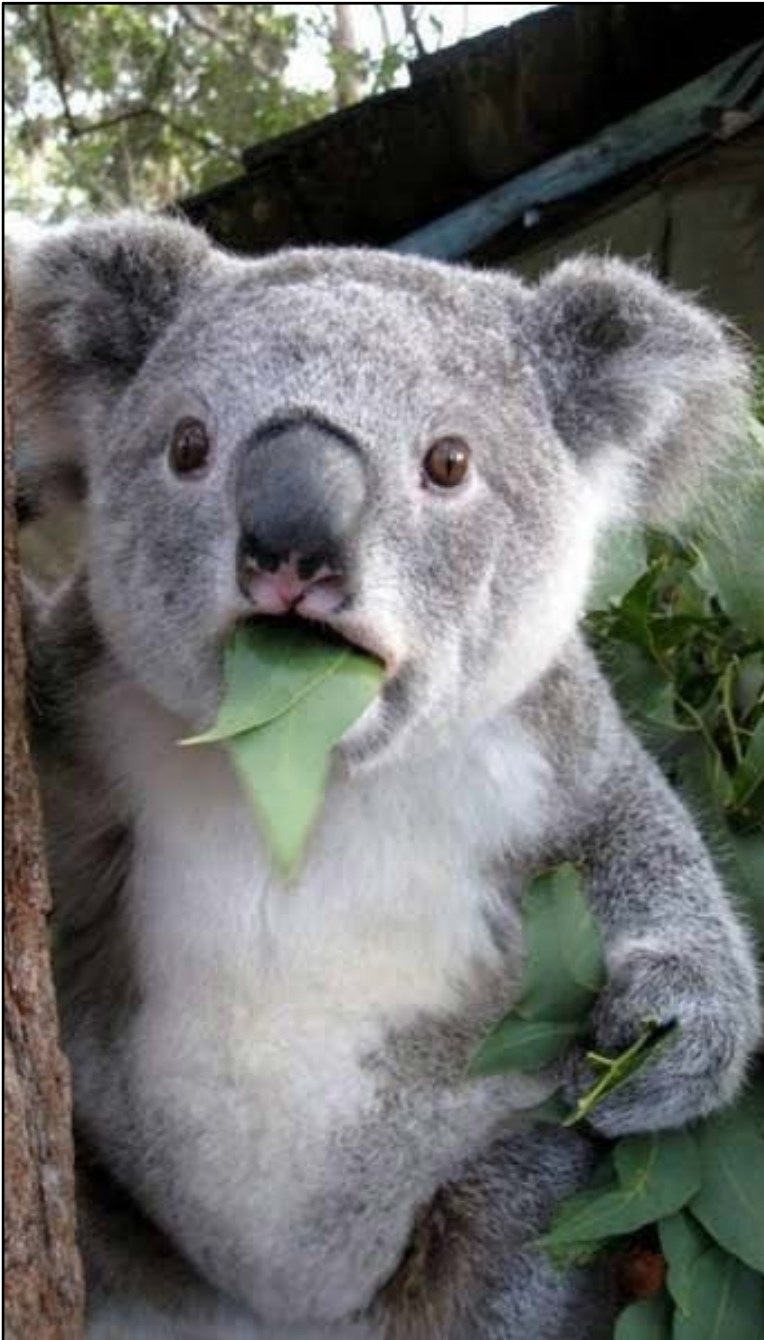


# ASWB Exam Format

- Computer-based
- Multiple Choice
- 4 hours to complete
- 170 Questions
  - 150 "real" questions
  - 20 being tested for validity
    - You will never know which 20
- Passing Score depends on which version of the test you get
- Range:
  - "Easiest" = Need 107 / 150 (71%)
  - "Hardest" = Need 93 / 150 (62%)

# ASWB Exam Content

Level	Human Development, Diversity, & Behavior	Assessment	Interventions	Ethics
LBSW	25%	29%	26%	20%
LMSW	27%	24%	24%	25%
LCSW	24%	30%	27%	19%



# What if I fail the exam?

- Exam attempt & fail 1
- **Wait 90 days**
- Exam attempt & fail 2
- **Wait 90 days**
- Exam attempt & fail 3
- **Apply to board for subsequent exams**
  - Submit plan to the board about how you will ensure success on future tests (form forthcoming)
  - No official limit, but board approves each request on case by case basis

Get  
Score  
Instantly

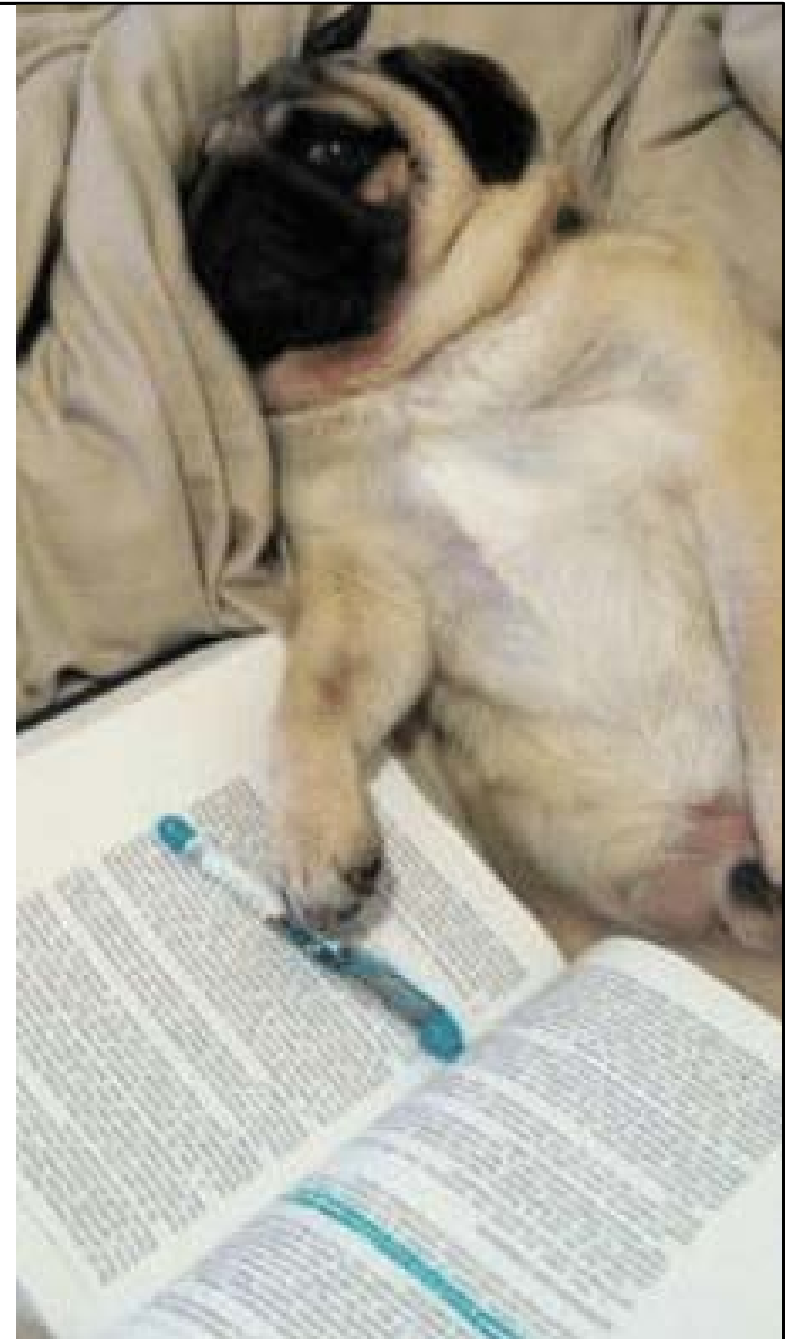


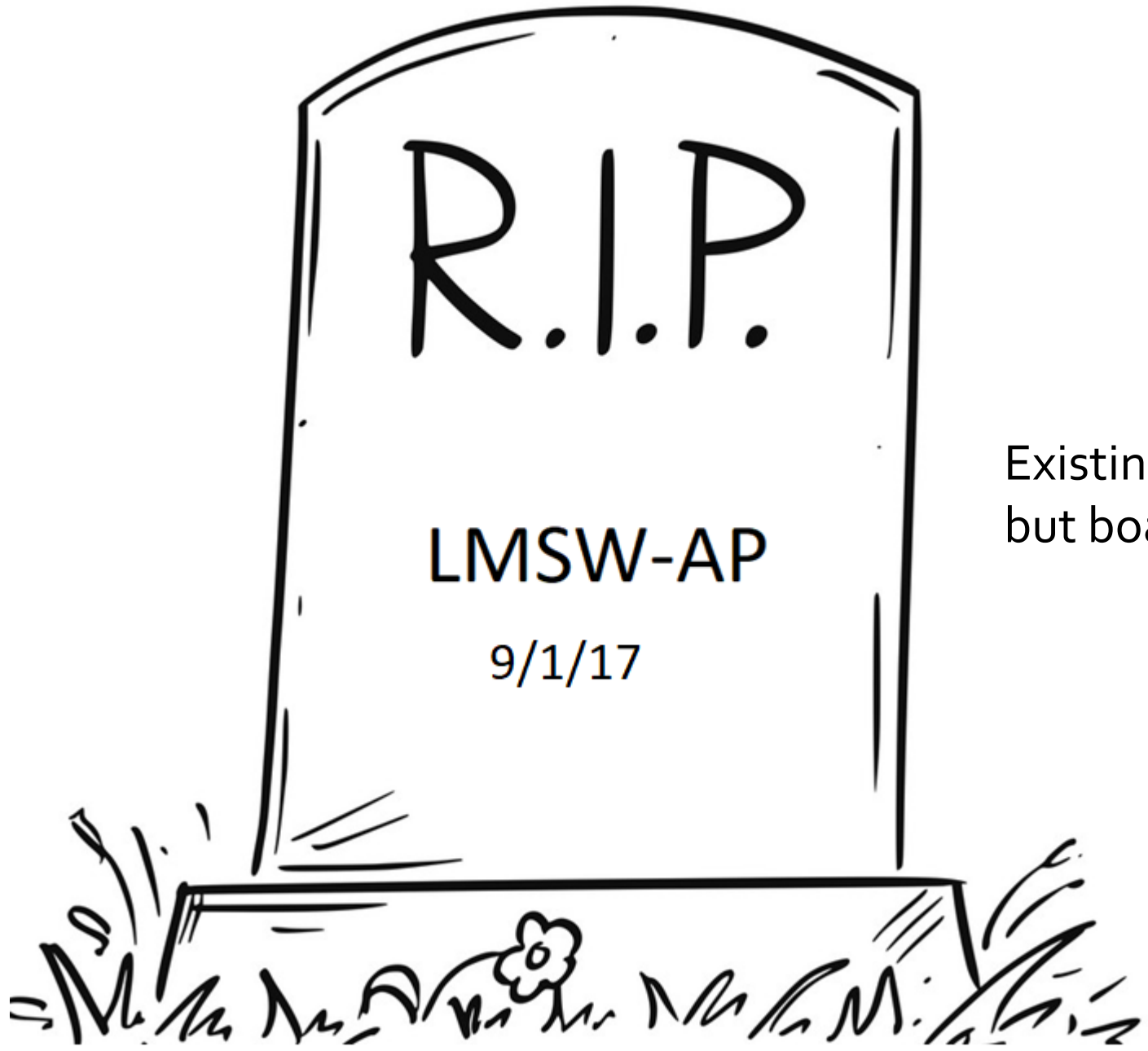
No more AMEC (Alternative Method of Examining Competency)  
(no supervision alternative)

# Study Resource Options\*

- Official [ASWB Practice Exam](#) (\$85)
- Social Work ASWB Exam Guides by Dawn Apgar
- Free YouTube Resources
  - [Phillip Lutrell](#)
  - [Karen Magruder, LCSW](#)
  - [Rachel Haskell](#)
- Tutoring
- PocketPrep- free questions of the day
- Course prep classes

*\*Proceed with caution! Not official endorsements*





Existing LMSW-AP licenses can be renewed,  
but board is not issuing new ones

# LCSW

## What you need

- Must have LMSW
- Must have job description with “assessing, diagnosing and treatment” of mental health issues
- Must be supervised by LCSW-S
  - Workplace or outside supervision
- Over the course of 24-48 months post-MSW:
  - **3,000 hours of social work experience**  
(30 hrs/week, 50 weeks a year)
  - **100 hours of supervision from a board approved LCSW-S**  
(at least 8 must be individual)
  - At least 4 hours/week must be clinical, plus 26 hrs/week of other social work duties
    - Clinical= assessing, diagnosing and treatment mental illness

# LCSW

- As of February 1, 2021, **no longer have to submit supervision plan to the board before starting**
  - Supervision plan only goes to supervisor- they need to ensure the plan is appropriate
- After 2+ years of hours and supervision are completed:
  1. Apply to ASWB, then take the LCSW exam
  2. Apply to the board, including proof of jurisprudence, fingerprinting, etc.
- Coming soon\*:
  - Apply to BHEC for the license (simultaneously)



# Practice Recognitions

## LBSW-IPR and LMSW-IPR

- Must have “base” license
- Similar supervision process as LCSW, but work is non-clinical
  - 24-60 months to complete
- May work under contract, bill directly for services, and bill third parties for reimbursements for ***non-clinical*** services
- Retake Jurisprudence Exam

## LCSW-S\*

- 2 years full time post LCSW licensure practice experience
- 40-hour training course from board-approved provider
- Additional CEU requirements (3 hours per renewal period on supervision)
- \*LBSW-S and LMSW-S are also offered, but this is much less common

# Doctoral Level Licenses



NO LICENSURE FOR  
PHD OR DSW



CAN MAINTAIN MASTER'S OR  
CLINICAL LICENSURE IF YOU  
GET A DOCTORATE

# License Requirement Summary

License Type	Education	Examination	Experience	Supervision
LBSW	BSW	Bachelors	None	None
LBSW-IPR	BSW	None	3,000 hours over 24-60 months post LBSW	100 hours
LMSW	MSW	Masters	None	None
LMSW-IPR	MSW	None	3,000 hours post LMSW	100 hours
LCSW	MSW	Clinical	3,000 hours post LMSW	100 hours
LCSW-S	MSW	None	-Minimum 2 years post LCSW -40 hours of training	None

# Criminal History

- What if I have a record? Can I still get a license?
  - Criminal history disclosure on licensing application
- Criminal History evaluation
  - \$150
  - Board reviews background and provides a statement as to whether the history would preclude licensure upon graduation
  - Complete **before** pursuing degree!

# License Reciprocity



Texas does not have  
official reciprocity

Military Exception



Endorsement is determined on a  
case-by-case basis.



Verification of Licensure in Another  
District

# Renewing license every 2 years



**Example 1:** You get licensed in May and have a March birthday

Year Licensed	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year
January	January	January	January	January
February	February	February	February	February
March	March 1	March 2	March 1	March 2
April	April	April	April	April
May	May	May	May	May
June	June	June	June	June
July	July	July	July	July
August	August	August	August	August
September	September	September	September	September
October	October	October	October	October
November	November	November	November	November
December	December	December	December	December

**Example 2:** You get licensed in January and have a March birthday

Year Licensed	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
January	January	January	January
February	February	February	February
March 1	March 2	March 1	March 2
April	April	April	April
May	May	May	May
June	June	June	June
July	July	July	July
August	August	August	August
September	September	September	September
October	October	October	October
November	November	November	November
December	December	December	December

# Maintaining your license

## Renewal fee

- \$141 for LBSW & LMSW
- \$163 for LCSW

## CEUs

- 30 hours in 2-year period
- 6 must be ethics
- 1 in human trafficking prevention- free SOAR course

Display license, certificate of renewal, and Code of Conduct

Fingerprints- *Coming April 2021*

Updating home address

Inactive Status

# Contacting ASWB

## Contact Info

- ASWB, Attn: Texas Applications  
17126 Mountain Run Vista Court  
Culpeper, VA 22701
- Email: [texas@aswb.org](mailto:texas@aswb.org)
- Dedicated application queue toll free  
number: 866-825-9580
- ASWB home  
page: <https://www.aswb.org/>



# Contacting the Board

## Set aside adequate time

- Wednesdays

## Contact Info

- Licensing questions: [licensing@bhec.texas.gov](mailto:licensing@bhec.texas.gov)
- Enforcement/compliance: [enforcement@bhec.texas.gov](mailto:enforcement@bhec.texas.gov)
- General/administrative/legal: [general@bhec.texas.gov](mailto:general@bhec.texas.gov)
  
- General questions (all BHEC): 512-305-7700
- For complaints: 800-821-3205 (24 hour)
  
- TX BHECTSBSWE  
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-900  
Austin, TX  
78701

Option to attend public [meetings](#)

**YOU CAN DO IT!**



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