

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/13/25

(Filing No. S-397)

MINORITY

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 528, L.D. 1298, "An Act Establishing Alternative Pathways to Social Worker Licensing"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §7054-D is enacted to read:

§7054-D. Alternative pathways to licensure

Beginning September 1, 2026, a person who has attempted and failed to complete the examination prescribed by the board may qualify for licensure through one of the following alternative pathways.

1. Licensed social worker. An applicant for licensure as a licensed social worker must:

A. Provide an expanded agreement to provide consultation form as prescribed by the board documenting the intent to receive 144 hours of consultation concurrent with 4,800 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than 3 years; and

B. Provide an attestation form as prescribed by the board attesting that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education, or successor organization, through successful completion of a bachelor's of social work internship.

2. Licensed master social worker. An applicant for licensure as a licensed master social worker must:

A. Provide an expanded agreement to provide consultation form as prescribed by the board documenting the intent to receive 144 hours of consultation concurrent with 4,800 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than 3 years; and

B. Provide an attestation form as prescribed by the board attesting that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on

1 Social Work Education, or successor organization, through successful completion of a
2 master's of social work graduate-level internship.

3 **3. Licensed master social worker, conditional clinical.** An applicant for licensure as
4 a licensed master social worker, conditional clinical must:

5 A. Provide an expanded agreement to provide consultation form as prescribed by the
6 board documenting the intent to receive 144 hours of consultation concurrent with
7 4,800 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than 3
8 years; and

9 B. Provide an attestation form as prescribed by the board attesting that the applicant
10 has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on
11 Social Work Education, or successor organization, through successful completion of a
12 master's of social work graduate-level internship.

13 **4. Licensed clinical social worker.** An applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical
14 social worker must provide evidence, using a form approved by the board, of successful
15 completion of clinical social work experience while licensed as a licensed master social
16 worker, conditional clinical through 48 hours of consultation concurrent with 1,600 hours
17 of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than one year that also
18 serves as an attestation that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9
19 competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education, or successor
20 organization.

21 This section is repealed March 1, 2031.'

22 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
23 number to read consecutively.

24 SUMMARY

25 The bill establishes a method for a person who has attempted and failed to complete a
26 State Board of Social Worker Licensure examination for licensure as a licensed social
27 worker; licensed master social worker; licensed master social worker, conditional clinical;
28 or licensed clinical social worker to qualify for licensure through an alternative pathway.
29 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, makes the following
30 changes to the bill.

31 1. It removes the requirement that an applicant for any category of social work licensure
32 must complete a jurisprudence exam.

33 2. It adds a requirement that any applicant provide the board with an agreement to
34 provide consultation form and an attestation form related to the 9 Council on Social Work
35 Education competencies for all licenses.

36 3. It clarifies that the requirements for the alternative pathway for the licensed master
37 social worker level of licensure match the requirements of the licensed master social
38 worker, conditional clinical level of licensure alternative pathway.

39 4. For applicants seeking licensure as a licensed clinical social worker through the
40 alternative pathway, the amendment requires that the applicant provide evidence of
41 successful completion of clinical social work experience while licensed as a licensed

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 528, L.D. 1298 (S. 397)

1 master social worker, conditional clinical through 48 hours of consultation concurrent with
2 1,600 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than one year.

3 5. It requires that the alternative pathway program is available beginning September
4 2026 and adds a repeal date in 5 years.

5 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6 (See attached)



Approved: 05/27/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1298

LR 2309(03)

An Act Establishing Alternative Pathways to Social Worker Licensing

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment **B(5397)**
Committee: Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the State Board of Social Worker Licensure to adopt the changes in this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.