

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1146

H.P. 849

House of Representatives, March 4, 2003

An Act To Allow Volunteer Social Work To Count towards Licensure

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 735,
§69, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Licensed clinical social worker.** To be qualified as a
7 licensed clinical social worker, an applicant ~~shall~~ must have
8 demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the
9 ethics of the social work profession; ~~shall~~ have successfully
10 completed the examination prescribed by the board; and ~~shall~~ have
received either:

12 A. A masters or doctoral degree in social work or social
13 welfare from an accredited educational institution, in a
14 clinical concentration and:

15 (1) ~~Shall-have~~ Have subsequently completed 2 years of
16 social work experience with 96 hours of consultation in
17 a clinical setting; or

18 (2) ~~Shall-have~~ Have demonstrated 2 years of full-time
19 clinical social work experience or its equivalent and
20 have completed the graduate degree prior to January 1,
21 1987, and have completed 2 years of subsequent social
22 work experience with 96 hours of consultation in a
23 private setting; or

24 B. A masters or doctoral degree in social work in a
25 nonclinical concentration from an accredited educational
26 institution and:

27 (1) ~~Shall-have~~ Have subsequently completed 4 years of
28 social work experience with 192 hours of consultation
29 in a clinical setting; or

30 (2) ~~Shall-have~~ Have demonstrated 2 years of full-time
31 clinical social work experience or its equivalent and
32 have completed the graduate degree prior to January 1,
33 1987, and have completed 4 years of subsequent social
34 work experience with 192 hours of consultation in a
35 private setting.

36 The board may waive up to one year of the post-master of social
37 work, clinical experience requirement pursuant to this subsection
38 for those candidates who demonstrate to the satisfaction of the
39 board equivalent clinical experience prior to receiving the
40 masters degree in social work.

41 Volunteer hours performed by the applicant may count towards
42 licensure under this subsection if adequate supervision has been
43

2 provided and the applicant agrees in writing to follow the
3 volunteer agency's rules of practice. The provisions of this
4 paragraph do not apply to a student who has not yet obtained a
5 master's or doctoral degree in social work or social welfare.

6 The board shall issue rules, in accordance with the Maine
7 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, defining the
8 clinical experience required for this level of licensure.

10 **Sec. 2. Unaccredited program.** The State Board of Social Work
11 Licensure shall license a graduate of an unaccredited social work
12 or social welfare program administered by the University of
13 Southern Maine as long as the program is in the process of
14 receiving accreditation.

16 SUMMARY

18 This bill allows volunteer hours to count towards fulfilling
19 the licensing requirements of a licensed clinical social worker
20 if the hours are performed under the appropriate supervision and
21 the applicant agrees in writing to follow the volunteer agency's
22 rules of practice. This bill also allows graduates of an
23 unaccredited social work or social welfare program administered
24 by the University of Southern Maine to be licensed as long as the
25 program is in the process of receiving accreditation.