

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
A. O. S.

L.D. 1589

DATE: 5-19-03

(Filing No. H-454)

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1162, L.D. 1589, Bill, "An Act To Change Certain Educational Requirements and Make Title Changes for Licensed Social Workers"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §7001-A, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2001, c. 316, §1, is further amended to read:

8. Licensed social worker. A "licensed social worker" is a person who has received a license as a licensed social worker from the board. In accordance with the provisions of section 7053, subsection 3-A 3-B, "licensed social worker" includes a person who has received a conditional license as a licensed social worker.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2001, c. 542, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Requirements to be a licensed social worker. ~~On or before September 30, 2003, the board may issue a license to an applicant who meets at least one of the requirements set out in this subsection~~ To be qualified to be licensed as a social worker an applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

A. The applicant must have received a bachelor's degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution; demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the social worker profession; and successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board; or

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2 B. The applicant must have received a bachelor's degree in
3 a related field from an institution that, at the time the
4 degree was received, did not have a program accredited by
5 the Council on Social Work Education but subsequently
6 offered such a program; demonstrated to the satisfaction of
7 the board adherence to the ethics of the social worker
8 profession conditional license as a licensed social worker
9 in accordance with subsection 3-B; completed the
10 requirements for consultation and contact hours in
11 accordance with subsection 3-C, paragraph B and subsection
12 3-D; and successfully completed the examination prescribed
13 by the board.

14 ~~The board shall issue rules, in accordance with the Maine~~
15 ~~Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, by which an~~
16 ~~individual who has a bachelor's degree that does not qualify~~
17 ~~under paragraph A or B may be eligible for a license.~~

20 ~~The board may not issue a licensed social worker conditional~~
21 ~~license under this subsection after September 30, 2003.~~
22 ~~Individuals who have met the requirements of this subsection and~~
23 ~~have a licensed social worker conditional license issued prior to~~
24 ~~September 30, 2003, may continue to work towards full licensure~~
25 ~~as a licensed social worker under this subsection.~~

26 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2001, c.**
27 **542, §2, is repealed.**

30 **Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§§3-B to 3-D are enacted to read:**

31 **3-B. Conditional license as a licensed social worker. The**
32 **board may issue a conditional license as a licensed social worker**
33 **to an applicant who provides to the board:**

34 **A. Documented proof of a bachelor's degree in a field that**
35 **is sufficiently related to social work or social welfare, as**
36 **determined by the board; and**

37 **B. Any documentation as required by the board, which may**
38 **include, but is not limited to:**

39 **(1) Evidence of employment in a social service**
40 **delivery field;**

41 **(2) Evidence of an arrangement of consultation to be**
42 **provided in accordance with subsection 3-C, paragraph**
43 **B; and**

44 **(3) Letters of professional recommendation.**

2 3-C. Consultation requirements for licensed social workers
3 and conditionally licensed social workers. A licensed social
4 worker or conditionally licensed social worker must complete the
5 following requirements for consultation.

6
7 A. A licensed social worker must complete a minimum of 96
8 hours of consultation as determined by the board. This
9 consultation must be concurrent with the first 3,200 hours
10 of social work employment occurring in a period of not less
11 than 2 years but not more than 4 years.

12
13 B. A person who receives a conditional license as a
14 licensed social worker on or after January 1, 2004 must
15 complete the following requirements for consultation.

16
17 (1) A person who is not an employee of the Department
18 of Human Services must complete a minimum of 96 hours
19 of consultation as determined by the board. This
20 consultation must be concurrent with the first 3,200
21 hours of social work employment occurring in a period
22 of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years.

23
24 (2) A person who is an employee of the Department of
25 Human Services must complete a minimum of 96 hours of
26 consultation with a licensed social worker who has been
27 licensed for at least 4 years or a licensed master
28 social worker. This consultation must be concurrent
29 with the first 3,200 hours of social work employment
30 occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not
31 more than 4 years.

32
33 3-D. Contact hours for conditionally licensed social
34 workers. A person who receives a conditional license as a
35 licensed social worker on or after January 1, 2004 must complete,
36 within the first 2 years of licensure, contact hours, as that
37 term is defined by the board, in an amount set by the board. Of
38 these contact hours required by the board, 6 hours must be on the
39 subject of social work ethics and 6 hours must be on the subject
40 of psychosocial assessment.

41 Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §7060, as amended by PL 2001, c. 316, §5, is
42 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

43 **§7060. Expiration and renewals**

44
45 Licenses expire biennially on December 31st or at such other
46 times as the Commissioner of Professional and Financial
47 Regulation may designate. Biennial fees for renewal of licenses
48 must be set by the board in an amount not to exceed those amounts
49
50

2 specified in section 7056 and are due and payable biennially on
3 or before the first day of January. License renewal fees for
4 certified social workers are the same as those for licensed
5 master social workers. Each renewal is contingent upon evidence
6 of participation in a continuing professional education course or
7 program as approved by the board. A license may be renewed up to
8 90 days after the date of expiration upon payment of a late fee
9 of \$10 in addition to the renewal fee. Any person who submits an
10 application for renewal more than 90 days after the renewal date
11 is subject to all requirements governing new applicants under
12 this chapter, except that the board may in its discretion, giving
13 due consideration to the protection of the public, waive
14 examination if the renewal application is made within 2 years
15 from the date of the expiration.

16 The board shall adopt rules that provide that a person
17 licensed under this chapter may, upon written request, be placed
18 in an inactive status. Reasons for granting inactive status
19 include, but are not limited to, changes in occupation, residence
20 and health. The payment of fees must be suspended during the
21 term of inactive status. The board shall also adopt rules by
22 which a person in an inactive status may be reinstated. A person
23 may be reinstated to active status by paying the fees for the
24 year of reinstatement.

26 The board shall notify every person licensed under this
27 chapter of the date of expiration of that person's license and
28 the fee required for its renewal for a 2-year period. The notice
29 must be mailed to the person's last known address at least 30
30 days in advance of the expiration date of the license.

32 In addition to the other requirements of this section, a
33 licensed social worker must:

34 1. Not employee of Department of Human Services. If not
35 employed by the Department of Human Services, provide
36 documentation of 96 hours of consultation as determined by the
37 board during the first 3,200 hours of social work employment in a
38 period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years; or
39

40 2. Employee of Department of Human Services. If employed
41 by the Department of Human Services, provide documentation of
42 either:
43

44 A. A minimum of 96 hours of consultation with a licensed
45 social worker who has been licensed for at least 4 years or
46 a licensed master social worker. This consultation must be
47 concurrent with the first 3,200 hours of social work
48 employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years
49 but not more than 4 years; or
50

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the Department of Human Services, the person must provide documentation of either:

A. A minimum of 96 hours of consultation with a licensed social worker who has been licensed for at least 4 years or a licensed master social worker, concurrent with the first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years; or

B. A minimum of 96 hours of consultation concurrent with the person's first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years with a licensed social worker who has been licensed for at least 2 years, has been designated by the department as a supervisor trainee and is concurrently receiving 48 hours of consultation with a licensed master social worker.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**



LD 1589

**An Act to Change Certain Educational Requirements and Make Title
Changes for Licensed Social Workers**

LR 1944(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Business, Research and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional cost to the State Board of Social Worker Licensure within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.