

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1010

S.P. 350

In Senate, February 24, 2005

An Act To Modify the Transition Provision for Renewal of Social Worker Licenses

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SULLIVAN of York.

Cosponsored by Representative BEAUDETTE of Biddeford and

Senators: BRENNAN of Cumberland, DOW of Lincoln, HOBBS of York, STRIMLING of Cumberland, Representatives: PERRY of Calais, RECTOR of Thomaston, SMITH of Monmouth.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** this legislation authorizes the Department of
Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Social
Worker Licensure to issue renewal licenses to social workers who
8 held valid licenses on September 13, 2003 prior to the enactment
of new license requirements for licenses issued after January 1,
10 2004; and

12 **Whereas,** if the State Board of Social Worker Licensure is
not granted additional authority, it will not be feasible for
14 many social worker licensees to comply with new requirements for
licensure within the balance of their current license cycle and
16 they will therefore be denied an opportunity to continue
providing a valuable service to the citizens of the State; and

18
20 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
22 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

26 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §7060, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 429,
28 §6 and affected by §7 and amended by c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is
further amended to read:

30 **1. Not employee of Department of Health and Human**
32 **Services.** If not employed by the Department of Health and Human
Services, provide documentation of 96 hours of consultation as
34 determined by the board during the first 3,200 hours of social
work employment in a period of not less than 2 years but not more
36 than 4 years. For purposes of fulfilling this 96-hour
consultation requirement, a licensed social worker practicing in
38 a long-term care setting who held a valid license as of September
13, 2003 may count consultation hours that were obtained prior to
40 September 1, 2004 in a group setting where consultation was
provided by a licensed social worker or mentor, regardless of the
42 group size; or

44 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

46

SUMMARY

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4 This bill permits social workers licensed as of the
6 effective date of Public Law 2003, chapter 429, which extended a
8 96-hour consultation requirement to all social workers, to
 fulfill this 96-hour standard by counting consultation hours that
 were obtained prior to September 1, 2004 from a licensed social
 worker in a group setting regardless of the group size.

10

 As of August 2, 2004, the Board of Social Worker Licensure
12 required that the consultation must be provided either
14 individually or in a group of not more than 8 members. The
 board's prior practices had recognized consultation in groups of
 20 members or more.