

HCS HB 332 -- SOCIAL WORKERS

SPONSOR: Behnen (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute prohibits any person from holding themselves out as being a social worker or using the title of social worker unless the person holds a current license in baccalaureate or clinical social work issued by the State Committee for Social Workers or holds a degree from an accredited social work program approved by the Council on Social Work Education.

Beginning January 1, 2004, no entity, public or private, may use the title of social worker for volunteer or employment positions within contracts for services, documents, manuals, or reference material unless those persons being referred to have met all educational requirements set forth by the substitute.

The substitute contains penalty provisions.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies who can call themselves social workers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; National Association of Social Workers; and Erica Feldman.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst