

HB 953 -- Licensure of Social Workers

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This bill changes the laws regarding the licensing of social workers. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Defines "advanced macro social worker," "licensed advanced macro social worker," "licensed baccalaureate social worker," "licensed master social worker," "master social work," "practice of advanced macro social work," "practice of baccalaureate social work," "practice of master social work," "qualified advanced macro supervisor," and "qualified baccalaureate supervisor";
- (2) Renames the Clinical Social Workers Fund to the Licensed Social Workers Fund;
- (3) Requires applicants to complete supervised clinical experience with a qualified clinical supervisor;
- (4) Requires licensees to complete a minimum of three hours in ethics and a minimum of two hours on the statutory and regulatory requirements as part of their continuing education requirements;
- (5) Changes the membership of the State Committee for Social Workers from six licensed clinical social workers to three licensed clinical social workers and three licensed master social workers;
- (6) Authorizes the committee to establish rules regarding supervised experience and competency for master and baccalaureate social workers;
- (7) Establishes the qualifications for applying for a license as a master social worker or advanced macro social worker; and
- (8) Authorizes the committee to issue certificates to licensed baccalaureate social workers to practice independently if they have met certain criteria specified in the bill.