

HB 1963 -- SOCIAL WORKERS

SPONSOR: Peters

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 19 to 0. Voted "Do Pass-Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and Procedure by a vote of 7 to 0.

Currently, applicants for baccalaureate socials worker licenses, advanced macro social worker licenses, and clinical social worker licenses are required to have 3,000 hours of supervised experience in the field they are pursuing a license to practice in.

Qualified advanced macro supervisors, qualified baccalaureate supervisors, and qualified clinical supervisors of social workers who supervise the applicants have to have practiced in the field of social work as a licensed social worker for which they are supervising the applicant for a minimum of five years. This bill changes that to three years.

This bill is similar to HB 886 (2025).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that we have a shortage of behavioral health workers in Missouri. The shortage has created long waits and long travel to receive care. This bill does not change the educational requirements. Missouri has a stipulation that requires a social worker to practice for five year before he or she can provide supervisory services. This bill changes that number from five years to three years.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Peters; National Association of Social Workers - MO Chapter; Burrell Behavioral Health; and New Vision Counseling.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.