



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 7160

\*HB0667607160HDO\*

Offered by:

REP. RITTER, 38<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. HARRIS, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6676

File No. 869

Cal. No. 560

**"AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 20-195m of the general statutes is repealed and  
4 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

5 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14, section 19a-18, sections  
6 20-195n to 20-195q, inclusive, sections 2, 6 and 7 of this act and this  
7 section:

8 (1) "Licensed clinical social worker" means a person who has been  
9 licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to this chapter;

10 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

11 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; [and]

12 (4) "Clinical social work" means the application, by persons trained  
13 in social work, of established principles of psychosocial development,  
14 behavior, psychopathology, unconscious motivation, interpersonal  
15 relationships and environmental stress to the evaluation, assessment,  
16 diagnosis and treatment of biopsychosocial dysfunction, disability and  
17 impairment, including mental, emotional, behavioral, developmental  
18 and addictive disorders, of individuals, couples, families or groups.  
19 Clinical social work includes, but is not limited to, counseling,  
20 psychotherapy, behavior modification and mental health consultation;

21 (5) "Licensed master social worker" means a person who has been  
22 licensed as a master social worker pursuant to this chapter;

23 (6) "Independent practice" means the practice of clinical social work  
24 without supervision;

25 (7) "Under professional supervision" means the practice of clinical  
26 social work under the supervision of a physician licensed pursuant to  
27 chapter 370, an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse  
28 licensed pursuant to chapter 378, a psychologist licensed pursuant to  
29 chapter 383, a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to  
30 chapter 383a, a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter  
31 383b, or a professional counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383c;  
32 and

33 (8) "Professional supervision" means face-to-face consultation  
34 between one supervisor, described in subdivision (7) of this section,  
35 and one person receiving supervision that consists of not less than a  
36 monthly review, a written evaluation and assessment by the  
37 supervisor of such person's practice of clinical social work.

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) An individual licensed as  
39 a master social worker pursuant to section 20-195n of the general  
40 statutes, as amended by this act, may: (1) Practice clinical social work  
41 under professional supervision; and (2) offer a mental health diagnosis  
42 provided such diagnosis is offered in consultation with a physician  
43 licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, an advanced

44 practice registered nurse or registered nurse licensed pursuant to  
45 chapter 378 of the general statutes, a psychologist licensed pursuant to  
46 chapter 383 of the general statutes, a marital and family therapist  
47 licensed pursuant to chapter 383a of the general statutes or a clinical  
48 social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b of the general statutes.  
49 Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 20-195q of the general  
50 statutes, as amended by this act, a licensed master social worker may  
51 not engage in independent practice.

52 (b) An individual licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to  
53 section 20-195n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, may  
54 practice clinical social work. A licensed clinical social worker may  
55 perform all functions of a licensed master social worker and, in  
56 addition, may engage in independent practice.

57 Sec. 3. Section 20-195n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

59 (a) No person shall practice clinical social work unless such person  
60 has obtained a license pursuant to this section.

61 (b) An applicant for licensure as a licensed master social worker  
62 shall: (1) Hold a master's degree from a social work program  
63 accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, if educated  
64 outside the United States or its territories, have completed an  
65 educational program deemed equivalent by said council; and (2) pass  
66 the masters level examination of the Association of Social Work Boards  
67 or any other examination prescribed by the commissioner.

68 (c) [Applicants] An applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker  
69 shall: (1) Hold a [doctorate or] master's degree from a social work  
70 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, if  
71 educated outside the United States or its territories, have completed an  
72 educational program deemed equivalent by said council; (2) have three  
73 thousand hours post-master's social work experience which shall  
74 include not less than one hundred hours of work under professional  
75 supervision by a licensed clinical or certified independent social

76 worker, provided on and after October 1, 2010, such hours completed  
77 in this state shall be as a licensed master social worker; and (3) pass the  
78 clinical level examination of the [American] Association of [State]  
79 Social Work Boards or any other examination prescribed by the  
80 commissioner. On and after October 1, 1995, any person certified as an  
81 independent social worker prior to October 1, 1995, shall be deemed  
82 licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to this section, except a  
83 person certified as an independent social worker on and after October  
84 1, 1990, shall not be deemed licensed as a clinical social worker  
85 pursuant to this chapter unless such person has satisfied the  
86 requirements of subdivision (3) of this [section] subsection.

87 [(b)] (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection [(a)] (b) of  
88 this section, the commissioner may grant a license by endorsement to  
89 an applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner  
90 that the applicant (1) is licensed or certified as a master social worker  
91 or clinical social worker in good standing in another state or  
92 jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are  
93 substantially similar to or higher than those of this state, and (2) has  
94 successfully completed the [clinical] master level examination of the  
95 Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor organization, or  
96 any other examination prescribed by the commissioner. No license  
97 shall be issued under this subsection to any applicant against whom  
98 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an  
99 unresolved complaint.

100 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
101 the commissioner may grant a license by endorsement to an applicant  
102 who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the  
103 applicant is (1) licensed or certified as a clinical social worker in good  
104 standing in another state or jurisdiction whose requirements for  
105 practicing in such capacity are substantially similar to or higher than  
106 those of this state, and (2) has successfully completed the clinical level  
107 examination of the Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor  
108 organization, or any other examination prescribed by the  
109 commissioner. No license shall be issued under this subsection to any

110 applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or  
111 who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.

112 Sec. 4. Section 20-195o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
113 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

114 (a) Application for licensure shall be on forms prescribed and  
115 furnished by the commissioner. Each applicant shall furnish evidence  
116 satisfactory to the commissioner that he has met the requirements of  
117 section 20-195n, as amended by this act. The application fee for a  
118 clinical social worker shall be two hundred fifty dollars. The  
119 application fee for a master social worker shall be one hundred  
120 seventy-five dollars.

121 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n, as amended  
122 by this act, concerning examinations, on or before October 1, 2011, the  
123 commissioner may issue a license without examination, [prior to  
124 January 1, 1998, to any applicant who offers proof to the satisfaction of  
125 the commissioner that he met the requirements of subdivisions (1) and  
126 (2) of section 20-195n and was an employee of the federal government  
127 with not less than three thousand hours postmaster's social work  
128 experience prior to October 1, 1986] to any master social worker  
129 applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner  
130 that, on or before October 1, 2009, he or she met the licensing  
131 requirements for a master social worker as prescribed in section 20-  
132 195n, as amended by this act.

133 (c) [(1)] Each person licensed pursuant to this chapter may apply for  
134 renewal of such licensure in accordance with the provisions of  
135 subsection (e) of section 19a-88. A fee of one hundred fifty dollars shall  
136 accompany each renewal application for a licensed master social  
137 worker or a licensed clinical social worker. Each such applicant shall  
138 furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of having  
139 [participated in] satisfied the continuing education requirements  
140 prescribed in section 7 of this act. [The commissioner shall adopt  
141 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to (A) define basic

142 requirements for continuing education programs, (B) delineate  
143 qualifying programs, (C) establish a system of control and reporting,  
144 and (D) provide for waiver of the continuing education requirement  
145 for good cause.

146 (2) A person licensed pursuant to this chapter who holds a  
147 professional educator certificate that is endorsed for school social work  
148 and issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to sections 10-  
149 144o to 10-149, inclusive, may satisfy the continuing education  
150 requirements contained in regulations adopted pursuant to this section  
151 by successfully completing professional development activities  
152 pursuant to subsection (l) of section 10-145b, provided the number of  
153 continuing education hours completed by such person is equal to the  
154 number of hours per registration period required by such regulations.  
155 For purposes of this subdivision, "registration period" means the one-  
156 year period during which a license has been renewed in accordance  
157 with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.]

158 Sec. 5. Section 20-195q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
159 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

160 (a) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed master social worker"  
161 or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under  
162 the description of a licensed master social worker, as defined in section  
163 20-195m, as amended by this act, unless such person is licensed as a  
164 master social worker pursuant to this chapter.

165 [(a)] (b) No [persons, except those licensed pursuant to this chapter,]  
166 person shall (1) use the title "licensed clinical social worker" or any  
167 initials associated with such [titles] title, or (2) advertise services under  
168 the description of a licensed clinical social worker, as defined in section  
169 20-195m, as amended by this act, unless such person is licensed as a  
170 clinical social worker pursuant to this chapter.

171 [(b)] (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit: (1) A student enrolled  
172 in a doctoral or master's degree program accredited by the Council on  
173 Social Work Education from performing such work as is incidental to

174 his course of study, provided such person is designated by a title  
175 which clearly indicates his status as a student; (2) a person holding a  
176 doctoral or master's degree from a program accredited by the Council  
177 on Social Work Education from gaining social work experience under  
178 professional supervision, provided such activities are necessary to  
179 satisfy the work experience required by section 20-195n, as amended  
180 by this act, and such person is designated as "social work intern",  
181 "social work trainee" or other title clearly indicating the status  
182 appropriate to his level of training; (3) a person licensed or certified in  
183 this state in a field other than clinical social work from practicing  
184 within the scope of such license or certification; (4) a person enrolled in  
185 an educational program or fulfilling other state requirements leading  
186 to licensure or certification in a field other than social work from  
187 engaging in work in such other field; [or] (5) a person who is employed  
188 or retained as a social work designee, social worker, or social work  
189 consultant by a nursing home or rest home licensed under section 19a-  
190 490 and who meets the qualifications prescribed by the department in  
191 its regulations from performing the duties required of them in  
192 accordance with state and federal laws governing those duties; (6) for  
193 the period from October 1, 2009, to October 1, 2012, inclusive, a master  
194 social worker from engaging in independent practice, provided after  
195 October 1, 2012, a master social worker may not engage in  
196 independent practice unless such master social worker has obtained  
197 licensure as a clinical social worker; (7) a social worker practicing  
198 community organization, policy and planning, research or  
199 administration that does not include engaging in clinical social work or  
200 supervising a social worker engaged in clinical treatment with clients;  
201 (8) an employee of the state, who works in a formal clinical social work  
202 trainee or internship program, from practicing clinical social work  
203 under supervision and without requiring such employee to attain  
204 licensure as a master social worker; and (9) individuals with a  
205 baccalaureate degree in social work from a Council on Social Work  
206 Education accredited program from performing nonclinical social  
207 work functions.

208       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) The department may issue a  
209 temporary permit to an applicant for licensure as a master social  
210 worker who holds a master's degree from a social work educational  
211 program, as described in section 20-195n of the general statutes, as  
212 amended by this act, but who has not yet taken the licensure  
213 examination prescribed in said section 20-195n. Such temporary permit  
214 shall authorize the holder to practice as a master social worker as  
215 provided for in section 2 of this act. Such temporary permit shall be  
216 valid for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty calendar days  
217 after the date of attaining such master's degree and shall not be  
218 renewable. Such permit shall become void and shall not be reissued in  
219 the event that the applicant fails to pass such examination. The fee for  
220 a temporary permit shall be fifty dollars.

221       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) Except as otherwise  
222 provided in this section, each clinical social worker, licensed pursuant  
223 to the provisions of chapter 383b of the general statutes, and, on and  
224 after October 1, 2010, each master social worker licensed pursuant to  
225 said chapter 383b shall complete a minimum of fifteen hours of  
226 continuing education during each registration period. For purposes of  
227 this section, "registration period" means the twelve-month period for  
228 which a license has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 of  
229 the general statutes and is current and valid.

230       (b) Continuing education required pursuant to this section shall be  
231 related to the practice of social work. Such continuing education shall  
232 consist of courses, workshops and conferences offered or approved by  
233 the Association of Social Work Boards, the National Association of  
234 Social Workers, a school or department of social work accredited by  
235 the Council on Social Work Education or an organization that  
236 demonstrates to the department that such organization's standards are  
237 substantially similar to the organizations identified in this subsection.  
238 A licensee's ability to engage in on-line and home study continuing  
239 education shall be limited to not more than six hours per registration  
240 period. Within the registration period, an initial presentation by a  
241 licensee of an original paper, essay or formal lecture in social work to a

242 recognized group of fellow professionals may account for five hours of  
243 continuing education hours of the aggregate continuing education  
244 requirements prescribed in this section.

245 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from a  
246 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education  
247 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate  
248 for a minimum of three years following the license renewal date for  
249 which the activity satisfies the continuing education requirement.  
250 Upon request by the department, the licensee shall submit such  
251 certificate to the department. A licensee who fails to comply with the  
252 continuing education requirements prescribed in this section may be  
253 subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-195p of the general  
254 statutes.

255 (d) A person licensed pursuant to chapter 383b of the general  
256 statutes who holds a professional educator certificate that is endorsed  
257 for school social work and issued by the State Board of Education  
258 pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, of the general statutes  
259 may satisfy the continuing education requirements contained in this  
260 section by successfully completing professional development activities  
261 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (l) of section 10-145b of the  
262 general statutes, provided the number of continuing education hours  
263 completed by such person is equal to the number of hours per  
264 registration period required by this section.

265 (e) A licensee applying for the first time for license renewal  
266 pursuant to section 20-195o of the general statutes, as amended by this  
267 act, shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements of  
268 this section. The department may, for a licensee who has a medical  
269 disability or illness, grant a waiver of the continuing education  
270 requirements or may grant such licensee an extension of time in which  
271 to fulfill the requirements, provided the licensee submits to the  
272 department an application for waiver or extension of time on a form  
273 prescribed by the department along with any documentation required  
274 by the department. The department may grant a waiver or extension

275 not to exceed one registration period, except that the department may  
 276 grant additional waivers or extensions if the initial reason for the  
 277 waiver or extension continues beyond the period of the waiver or  
 278 extension. A waiver of the continuing education requirement may be  
 279 granted by the department to a licensee who is not engaged in social  
 280 work during a given continuing education registration period,  
 281 provided the licensee submits a waiver request prior to the expiration  
 282 of the continuing education period, on a form prescribed by the  
 283 department.

284 (f) Any licensee granted a waiver of the continuing education  
 285 requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this  
 286 section shall be required to complete seven hours of continuing  
 287 education not later than six months from the date on which such  
 288 licensee returned to active practice. In addition, such licensee shall  
 289 comply with the certificate of completion requirements prescribed in  
 290 subsection (c) of this section.

291 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to the  
 292 provisions of subsection (f) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes,  
 293 who applies to the department for reinstatement of such license, shall  
 294 submit with such application evidence documenting that such  
 295 applicant has successfully completed seven hours of continuing  
 296 education within the one-year period immediately preceding the date  
 297 of application for reinstatement.

298 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) The Department of Public  
 299 Health shall, within available appropriations, issue licenses as a master  
 300 social worker pursuant to chapter 383b of the general statutes. All costs  
 301 associated with the issuance of such licenses, including, but not limited  
 302 to, administrative, personnel, examination and investigative costs,  
 303 shall be met within available appropriations."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	20-195m

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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	20-195n
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	20-195o
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	20-195q
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section