



House of Representatives

File No. 968

General Assembly

January Session, 2019

(Reprint of File No. 559)

Substitute House Bill No. 7198
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 22, 2019

AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed master social worker"
4 or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under
5 the description of a licensed master social worker, as defined in section
6 20-195m, unless such person is licensed as a master social worker
7 pursuant to this chapter.

8 (b) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed clinical social worker"
9 or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under
10 the description of a licensed clinical social worker, as defined in section
11 20-195m, unless such person is licensed as a clinical social worker
12 pursuant to this chapter.

13 (c) No person shall (1) use the title "social worker" or any initials
14 associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under the

15 description of "social worker", unless such person has earned a
16 baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from a social work
17 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, a
18 doctoral degree in social work or, if educated outside of the United
19 States or its territories, has completed an educational program deemed
20 equivalent by said council.

21 [(c)] (d) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit: (1) A student enrolled
22 in a doctoral or master's degree program accredited by the Council on
23 Social Work Education from performing such work as is incidental to
24 his course of study, provided such person is designated by a title
25 which clearly indicates his status as a student; (2) a person licensed or
26 certified in this state in a field other than clinical social work from
27 practicing within the scope of such license or certification; (3) a person
28 enrolled in an educational program or fulfilling other state
29 requirements leading to licensure or certification in a field other than
30 social work from engaging in work in such other field; (4) a person
31 who is employed or retained as a social work designee, social worker,
32 or social work consultant by a nursing home or rest home licensed
33 under section 19a-490 and who meets the qualifications prescribed by
34 the department in its regulations from performing the duties required
35 of them in accordance with state and federal laws governing those
36 duties; [(5) for the period from October 1, 2010, to October 1, 2013,
37 inclusive, a master social worker from engaging in independent
38 practice; (6)] (5) a social worker from practicing community
39 organization, policy and planning, research or administration that
40 does not include engaging in clinical social work or supervising a
41 social worker engaged in clinical treatment with clients; [(7)] (6)
42 individuals with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a Council
43 on Social Work Education accredited program from performing
44 nonclinical social work functions; [and (8)] (7) a person who holds a
45 professional educator certificate issued by the State Board of Education
46 pursuant to section 10-145b, with a school social worker endorsement,
47 from using the title of school social worker to describe such person's
48 activities while working in a public or nonpublic school in the state; (8)

49 any person employed by a municipality prior to July 1, 2019, under the
 50 title social worker from using such title to describe or perform duties
 51 in the course of such employment with the municipality; and (9) a state
 52 employee with the title social worker from using such title to describe
 53 or perform duties in the course of such employment with the state. On
 54 and after October 1, 2019, the state shall specify on any job posting for
 55 a title in the social work series of classified service, in which a license
 56 pursuant to this chapter is not required, that a preferred qualification
 57 for employment in such title is completion of a baccalaureate or
 58 master's degree in social work from a social work program accredited
 59 by the Council on Social Work Education or a doctoral degree in social
 60 work.

61 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 20-195s of the general statutes is
 62 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
 63 *October 1, 2019*):

64 (a) An individual licensed as a master social worker pursuant to
 65 section 20-195n may: (1) Practice clinical social work under
 66 professional supervision; and (2) offer a mental health diagnosis
 67 provided such diagnosis is offered in consultation with a physician
 68 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, an advanced practice registered
 69 nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, a psychologist licensed
 70 pursuant to chapter 383, a marital and family therapist licensed
 71 pursuant to chapter 383a, a professional counselor licensed pursuant to
 72 chapter 383c or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to this
 73 chapter. [Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 20-195q, a] A
 74 licensed master social worker may not engage in independent practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-195q
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-195s(a)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes statutory changes regarding the use of the title “social worker” or any initials associated with such title, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

House “A” strikes the language of the underlying bill and replaces it with language that makes statutory changes regarding the use of the title “social worker” or any initials associated with such title. It is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7198 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill generally prohibits anyone from using the title “social worker,” or any associated initials, or advertising services as a social worker unless he or she (1) has a bachelor’s or master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); (2) a doctorate in social work; or (3) if educated outside of the U.S. or its territories, completed an education program CSWE deems equivalent.

Existing law already prohibits anyone who is unlicensed from using the title of licensed master or clinical social worker or advertising services as such.

The bill exempts from the prohibition (1) state employees with the title social worker and (2) municipal employees with this title hired before July 1, 2019. Existing law already allows any person employed by the state before October 1, 1996, with the title in the social work series of the classified service to have such a title to describe or perform his or her duties (CGS § 20-195r).

Starting October 1, 2019, the bill requires the state, on any posting for a job in the social work series of classified service that does not require a social work license, to specify that the preferred qualification is a bachelor’s or master’s degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program or a doctorate in social work.

The bill also makes technical changes, including deleting obsolete provisions.

*House Amendment "A" adds the provisions (1) requiring the state to specify preferred education qualifications on certain social work job postings and (2) exempting state employees and certain municipal employees with the title "social worker" from the prohibition. It also allows a person with a social work degree from any doctoral program, instead of only doctoral programs accredited by CSWE, to use the title "social worker."

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

HB 7292 (File 497), reported favorably by the Labor Committee, prohibits anyone from using the title "social worker" or advertising clinical social work services unless he or she has a bachelor's or master's social work degree from a CSWE-accredited program or a doctorate in social work.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/22/2019)