

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-164—sHB 7198
Public Health Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS

SUMMARY: This act generally prohibits anyone from advertising services as a social worker, or using the title “social worker” or any associated initials, 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) has a doctorate in social work; or (3) if educated outside of the U.S. or its territories, has 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 act exempts from the prohibition (1) state employees with the social worker title 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 act 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 act also makes technical changes, including deleting obsolete provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019