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)