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April 4, 2024

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 3015

By: Boatman and Pittman of the  
House

and

# Garvin of the Senate

An Act relating to professions and occupations; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1261.1, which relates to social worker licensing requirements; modifying certain schooling qualifications; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1261.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1261.1 A. To obtain a license under the Social Worker's Licensing Act, an applicant shall:

1. Submit a written application in a form prescribed by the  
State Board of Licensed Social Workers;

2. Have attained the age of majority;

3. Have graduated and received a degree in social work from an approved social work program;

4. Have completed any necessary post graduate experience and supervision in the practice of social work;

1       5. Have passed the necessary examination and paid all fees  
2 required by the Board; and

3       6. Submit to a national criminal history record check, as  
4 defined by Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The  
5 costs associated with the national criminal history record check  
6 shall be paid by the applicant and submitted to the Board at the  
7 time of application. With the required fee, the applicant shall  
8 provide to the Board two classifiable sets of fingerprints to be  
9 provided to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

10       B. If the results of the national criminal history record check  
11 required by subsection A of this section reveal that the applicant  
12 has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, any  
13 felony crime that substantially relates to the occupation of a  
14 social worker and poses a reasonable threat to public safety, the  
15 individual's application for licensure may be disapproved and no  
16 further action shall be taken on the application.

17       C. Upon certification by the Board, the Board shall authorize  
18 the issuance of social work licenses to persons who qualify as  
19 follows:

20       1. As a licensed social work associate (LSWA) who has a  
21 baccalaureate degree in social work from an accredited institution  
22 or an approved social work program or both and has passed the  
23 examination provided for under these provisions or who has a  
24 doctoral or master's degree in social work from an institution with

1 a program accredited by an approved social work program and has  
2 passed the examination provided for under these provisions;

3 2. As a licensed master's social worker (LMSW) who has a  
4 master's degree in social work from an accredited institution or an  
5 approved social work program or both and has passed the examination  
6 provided for under the Social Worker's Licensing Act;

7 3. As a licensed social worker (LSW) who has a master's degree  
8 in social work from an accredited institution or an approved social  
9 work program or both and has ~~two (2) years of full-time~~ three  
10 thousand (3,000) hours of postgraduate experience in the practice of  
11 social work under professional supervision of a person licensed  
12 under those provisions, and who has passed the examination provided  
13 for under the provisions of the Social Worker's Licensing Act;

14 4. As a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) who has a  
15 master's degree in social work from an accredited institution or an  
16 approved social work program or both and has ~~two (2) years of full-~~  
17 ~~time~~ three thousand (3,000) hours of postgraduate experience in the  
18 practice of clinical social work under professional supervision of a  
19 person licensed by the Social Worker's Licensing Act, and who has  
20 passed the examination provided for under the Social Worker's  
21 Licensing Act; and

22 5. As a licensed social worker with administration specialty  
23 (LSW-ADM) who has a master's degree in social work from an  
24 accredited institution or an approved social work program or both

1 and has ~~two (2) years of full-time~~ three thousand (3,000) hours of  
2 postgraduate experience in the practice of administrative social  
3 work under professional supervision of a person licensed by the  
4 Social Worker's Licensing Act, and who has passed the examination  
5 provided for under the Social Worker's Licensing Act.

6 D. Applicants who have been licensed as an LSWA, LMSW, LSW,  
7 LCSW or LSW-ADM in good standing in another state for a minimum of  
8 three (3) years continually since the time of initial full licensure  
9 post-provisional term and comply with all other state requirements  
10 shall be licensed by the Board.

11 E. No person may engage in the private practice of clinical  
12 social work unless that person:

13 1. Is licensed under the Social Worker's Licensing Act as a  
14 licensed clinical social worker (LCSW); and

15 2. Continues to meet continuing education requirements set by  
16 the Board.

17 F. No person may engage in an independent social work practice  
18 unless that person:

19 1. Is licensed under the Social Worker's Licensing Act as a  
20 licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), licensed social worker with  
21 administration specialty (LSW-ADM) or licensed social worker (LSW).  
22 This specifically and intentionally excludes licensed social work  
23 associates (LSWA) and licensed masters social workers (LMSW); and  
24

1        2. Continues to meet continuing education requirements set by  
2 the Board.

3        G. ~~Any qualified person who files by February 1, 2012, a sworn~~  
4 ~~statement with the Board stating that the person has met the~~  
5 ~~definition of a qualified person under this section shall, upon~~  
6 ~~approval of the statement by the Board, be entitled to engage in the~~  
7 ~~independent practice of social work without having to meet the two-~~  
8 ~~year postgraduate supervision requirement specified in paragraphs 3,~~  
9 ~~4 and 5 of subsection C of this section.~~

10        H. Any person seeking to pursue postgraduate supervision for  
11 the licensed social worker (LSW), licensed social worker with  
12 administration specialty (LSW-ADM), or licensed clinical social  
13 worker (LCSW) must hold licensure status of licensed social work  
14 associate (LSWA) or licensed masters social worker (LMSW) prior to  
15 board approval of postgraduate supervision for licensure as  
16 specified in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of subsection C of this section.

17        I. ~~As used in this section, "qualified person" means a person~~  
18 ~~who:~~

19        1. ~~Currently holds an active social worker license from the~~  
20 ~~Board; and~~

21        2. ~~Has held a social worker license from the Board continuously~~  
22 ~~during the ten-year period immediately prior to November 1, 2011.~~

23        J. H. As used in this section:  
24

1        1. "Substantially relates" means the nature of criminal conduct  
2 for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on the  
3 fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or  
4 responsibilities necessarily related to the occupation; and

5        2. "Poses a reasonable threat" means the nature of criminal  
6 conduct for which the person was convicted involved an act or threat  
7 of harm against another and has a bearing on the fitness or ability  
8 to serve the public or work with others in the occupation.

9        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

10       COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
11       April 4, 2024 - DO PASS  
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