

SENATE BILL 723

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71r2950
CF HB 358

By: **Senators Conway, Dyson, and Kelley**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2007

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 16, 2007

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2007

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Certified Social Workers–Clinical – Practice – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “practice social work” so as to authorize
4 a licensed certified social worker–clinical to practice social work by evaluating,
5 diagnosing, and treating certain mental and emotional conditions and
6 impairments in addition to certain other conditions and disorders; and generally
7 relating to defining the practice of social work for certified social
8 workers–clinical.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Health Occupations
11 Section 19–101
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Health Occupations**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 19–101.

2 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (b) “Board” means the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

4 (c) “Certified” means having demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board
5 that the individual has completed 2 years of supervised social work practice as defined
6 in § 19–302(d) or (e) of this title.

7 (d) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, one of four types
8 of licenses issued by the Board authorizing an individual to practice:

9 (1) Associate social work;

10 (2) Graduate social work;

11 (3) Certified social work; or

12 (4) Certified social work–clinical.

13 (e) “Licensed associate social worker” means an individual licensed by the
14 Board to practice associate social work.

15 (f) “Licensed certified social worker” means an individual licensed by the
16 Board to practice certified social work.

17 (g) “Licensed certified social worker–clinical” means an individual licensed
18 by the Board to practice clinical social work.

19 (h) “Licensed graduate social worker” means an individual licensed by the
20 Board to practice graduate social work.

21 (i) “Practice associate social work” means to practice social work:

22 (1) Under the supervision of a licensed certified social worker, licensed
23 certified social worker–clinical, or licensed graduate social worker who meets the
24 conditions specified in regulations; and

25 (2) Utilizing the education and training required under § 19–302(b) of
26 this title.

1 (j) “Practice certified social work” means to practice social work utilizing the
2 education, training, and experience required under § 19–302(d) or (e) of this title.

3 (k) “Practice clinical social work” means to practice social work utilizing the
4 specialized education, training, and experience required under § 19–302(e) of this title.

5 (l) “Practice graduate social work” means to practice social work:

6 (1) Under the supervision of a licensed certified social worker, licensed
7 certified social worker–clinical, or licensed graduate social worker who meets the
8 conditions specified in regulations; and

9 (2) Utilizing the education and training required under § 19–302(c) of
10 this title.

11 (m) (1) “Practice social work” means to apply the theories, knowledge,
12 procedures, methods, or ethics derived from a formal educational program in social
13 work to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups,
14 organizations, or communities through:

15 (i) Assessment;

16 (ii) Formulating diagnostic impressions;

17 (iii) Planning;

18 (iv) Intervention;

19 (v) Evaluation of intervention plans;

20 (vi) Case management;

21 (vii) Information and referral;

22 (viii) Counseling that does not include diagnosis or treatment of
23 mental disorders;

24 (ix) Advocacy;

25 (x) Consultation;

26 (xi) Education;

- 1 (xii) Research;
- 2 (xiii) Community organization; or
- 3 (xiv) Development, implementation, and administration of
4 policies, programs, and activities.

5 (2) For an individual licensed as a graduate social worker, “practice
6 social work” also includes:

7 (i) Supervision of other social workers if the graduate social
8 worker meets the requirements set out in regulations; and

9 (ii) Treatment of psychosocial conditions and mental disorders
10 and the provision of psychotherapy under the direct supervision of a licensed certified
11 social worker–clinical.

12 (3) For an individual licensed as a certified social worker, “practice
13 social work” also includes:

14 (i) Supervision of other social workers; and

15 (ii) Treatment of psychosocial conditions and mental disorders
16 and the provision of psychotherapy under the direct supervision of a licensed certified
17 social worker–clinical.

18 (4) For an individual licensed as a certified social worker–clinical,
19 “practice social work” also includes:

20 (i) Supervision of other social workers;

21 (ii) Evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of psychosocial
22 conditions, **MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS AND IMPAIRMENTS**, and
23 mental disorders as defined in § 10–101(f) of the Health – General Article; and

24 (iii) The provision of psychotherapy.

25 (n) “Psychotherapy” means a method for the treatment of mental disorders
26 and behavioral disturbances in which a licensed health care practitioner enters into a
27 professional contract with the patient and, through a therapeutic communication or
28 interaction, attempts to:

29 (1) Alleviate emotional disturbances;

1 (2) Reverse or alter maladaptive patterns of behavior; or

2 (3) Encourage personality growth and development.

3 (o) “Supervision” means a formalized professional relationship between a
4 supervisor and a supervisee that:

5 (1) Provides evaluation and direction of the supervisee; and

6 (2) Promotes continued development of the supervisee’s knowledge,
7 skills, and abilities to provide social work services in an ethical and competent
8 manner.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2007.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.