
By: **Delegates McHale, Marriott, and Montague**
Introduced and read first time: February 19, 1998
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Social Workers - Clinical Social Work - Definitions and Scope of Practice**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "practice clinical social work"; specifying
4 who is authorized to supervise an applicant for a certified social worker license;
5 restricting the practice of clinical social work to certain individuals; requiring
6 direct supervision by a clinical social worker for individuals to practice clinical
7 social work; and generally relating to the practice of clinical social work in the
8 State.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Health Occupations
11 Section 19-101(f), 19-302(d)(1), and 19-401
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article - Health Occupations
16 Section 19-307(d)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Health Occupations**

22 19-101.

23 (f) (1) "Practice clinical social work" means to engage professionally and for
24 compensation in the application of social work principles and methods for the
25 alleviation of social, mental, and emotional conditions [through treatment designed
26 to provide psychotherapy for a mental disorder] AND DISORDERS AFFECTING
27 INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, OR GROUPS.

28 (2) "Practice clinical social work" includes [rendering]:

1 (I) RENDERING a diagnosis based on a recognized manual of
2 mental and emotional disorders; AND

3 (II) TREATING THE MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL DISORDERS OF
4 INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, OR GROUPS THROUGH PSYCHOTHERAPY.

5 19-302.

6 (d) (1) An applicant for a certified social worker license shall have:

7 (i) A master's degree from an accredited college or university and
8 based on a graduate social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work
9 Education; and

10 (ii) 2 years of social work experience as a social worker where
11 face-to-face supervision is part of the employment contract and the supervisor is a
12 licensed certified social worker OR A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL
13 WORKER-CLINICAL and is provided by and accountable to the employer after
14 receiving the master's degree.

15 19-307.

16 (D) (1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL
17 SHALL BE A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER-CLINICAL IN ORDER TO
18 PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.

19 (2) A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER OR A LICENSED GRADUATE
20 SOCIAL WORKER MAY PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK ONLY IF DIRECTLY
21 SUPERVISED BY A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER-CLINICAL.

22 19-401.

23 Except as otherwise provided in this title[,]:

24 (1) [a] A person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice
25 social work in this State unless licensed by the Board; AND

26 (2) A PERSON MAY NOT PRACTICE, ATTEMPT TO PRACTICE, OR OFFER TO
27 PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK IN THIS STATE UNLESS LICENSED BY THE BOARD
28 AS A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER-CLINICAL.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 1998.