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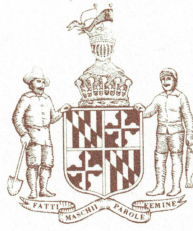
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SUPPORT FOR HB 1387

As you all may know, two health care practitioners must sign a certificate for involuntary admission to certain mental health facilities. Attached to my testimony, I have provided you a chart comparing those health care practitioners in education, experience and training juxtaposed to those qualifications of the LCSW-C. Currently, a Licensed Social Worker – Clinical must have extensive training both in and outside the classroom, including 3000 hours over a period of two years or more in supervised clinical experience. Like a physician and a psychologist, they can make the ultimate diagnosis of insanity, yet they are not listed as one of the health care practitioners that may co-sign a certificate for involuntary admission. HB 1387 seeks to rectify that by adding them to the statutory list of practitioners in the Health General Article.

The Maryland Department of Health – Board of Social Work Examiners supports this bill. Their testimonial letter in support makes their position very clear.

HB 1387 recognizes the importance of having two health care practitioners to concur and sign a certificate of involuntary admission. The Board of Social Work Examiners recognizes the competence of their Licensed Social Worker – Clinical practitioners.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please enter a favorable report for HB 1387.

HB-1387 Licensed Certified Social Worker- Clinical Involuntary Admission-Comparison of Professions

This is a general comparison of the health care professionals by education and training who are authorized to independently evaluate, diagnose, and treat persons with mental and or emotional disorders, behavioral disorders, conditions and impairments. All have authority to issue an Emergency Petition. The Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical has the authority under the Estates and Trust Art. Sec. 13-103, and Sec. 1-102(a) and (b) to evaluate and sign with a physician a Petition for Guardianship of a Disabled Person (Md. Rule 10-112).

This comparison is not intended to be exhaustive nor is it intended to meet an academic or legal peer review standard. It is a general description for review as it may affect the process of involuntary admission of an individual.

Physician	Psych. Nurse Practitioner	Psychologist	Lic. Certified Social Worker-Clinical
Education: Medical School	Education: Masters In Nursing with Spec. in Psych. May be online with approved field placement(s).	Education: 30-36 credit Masters and then Ph.D training or BA. or BS. then Ph.D.	Education: 60 Credit Masters. In classroom and approved field placement(s).
Residency (physician in residency can perform function of involuntary admission.	Practicum as part of education –May be supervised by LCSW-C, as part of training.	Practicum as part of education	Practicum field placements as part of education
Post Degree-Residency in Specialization	Post Degree-None other than included in practicum.	Post Degree-None other than included in practicum	Post Degree-3000 hrs. in no less than 2 years, supervised BSWE approved clinical experience
Focus: Somatic medical treatment with mental illness Auth. Ultimate decisions as to competency and insanity: yes	Focus: Somatic medical care in conjunction with physician, verbal therapies. Auth. Ultimate decisions as to competency and insanity: unk	Focus: Psychological evaluation, Dx., treatment with emphasis on, theory, teaching, research and verbal therapies, and testing. Auth. Ultimate decisions as to competency and insanity: yes	Focus: Evaluation, Dx., Treatment verbal therapies with emphasis on function of person within the context of their environment. Auth. Ultimate decisions as to competency and insanity: yes



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

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**2020 Session
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: HB 1387
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Certificates for Involuntary Admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker - Clinical

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill alters a requirement that a certain certificate accompany an application for involuntary admission to certain facilities by providing that the certificate may be of a physician and a license certified social worker – clinical.

POSITION AND RATIONAL: The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (“Board”) supports HB 1387.

The Board recognizes the importance of having two qualified health care practitioners sign a certificate for involuntary admission to certain facilities. This bill will enable licensed certified social workers- clinical to join psychologist and psychiatric nurse practitioner as health care practitioners able to sign such involuntary admission certificates, along with a physician.

For this reason, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners requests a favorable report on HB1387.

For more information, please contact the Board’s Executive Director, Dr. Stanley E. Weinstein at 410-764-4722 or Stanley.Weinstein@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.