

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2795

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-53-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOCIAL WORKER LICENSE TO PROVIDE  
3 THAT PERSONS WHO HAVE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY,  
4 SOCIOLOGY, NURSING OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE  
5 OR UNIVERSITY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE LICENSE; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-53-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 73-53-13. The board shall issue the appropriate license to  
11 applicants who meet the qualifications of this section.

12 (a) Prerequisites - "social worker": A license as a  
13 "social worker" shall be issued to an applicant who meets the  
14 following qualifications:

15 (i) Has a baccalaureate degree in social work from  
16 a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work  
17 Education or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or has  
18 a baccalaureate degree in psychology, sociology, nursing or  
19 criminal justice from an accredited college or university, and has  
20 satisfactorily completed an examination for this license; or

21 (ii) Has a comparable license or registration from  
22 another state or territory of the United States that imposes  
23 qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter.

24 (b) Prerequisites - "master social worker": A license  
25 as a "master social worker" shall be issued to an applicant who  
26 meets the following qualifications:

27 (i) Has a doctorate or master's degree from a  
28 school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work  
29 Education; and

30                   (ii) Has satisfactorily completed an examination  
31 for his license; or

32                   (iii) Has a comparable license or registration  
33 from another state or territory of the United States that imposes  
34 qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter.

35           (c) Prerequisites - "certified social worker": A  
36 license as a "certified social worker" shall be issued to an  
37 applicant who meets the following qualifications:

38                   (i) Is licensed under this section as a "master  
39 social worker"; and

40                   (ii) Has twenty-four (24) months of experience  
41 acceptable to the board, under appropriate supervision; and

42                   (iii) Has satisfactorily completed a state  
43 examination for this license; or

44                   (iv) Has a comparable license or registration from  
45 another state or territory of the United States that imposes  
46 qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter.

47           (d) In addition to the above qualifications, an  
48 applicant for any of the above licenses must prove to the board's  
49 satisfaction:

50                   (i) Age of at least twenty-one (21) years, and

51                   (ii) Good moral character, which is a continuing  
52 requirement for licensure, and

53                   (iii) United States citizenship or status as a  
54 legal resident alien, and

55                   (iv) Absence of conviction of a felony related to  
56 the practice of social work for the last ten (10) years, and

57                   (v) That the applicant has not been declared  
58 mentally incompetent by any court, and if any such decree has ever  
59 been rendered, that the decree has since been changed, and

60                   (vi) Freedom from dependency on alcohol or drugs.

61                   (e) Only individuals licensed as "certified social  
62 workers" shall be permitted to call themselves "clinical social  
63 workers."

64                   Each application or filing made under this section shall  
65 include the social security number(s) of the applicant in  
66 accordance with Section 93-11-64.

67                   **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
68 and after July 1, 2004.