



**Substitute House Bill No. 7198**

**Public Act No. 19-164**

**AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 20-195q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

(a) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed master social worker" or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under the description of a licensed master social worker, as defined in section 20-195m, unless such person is licensed as a master social worker pursuant to this chapter.

(b) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed clinical social worker" or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under the description of a licensed clinical social worker, as defined in section 20-195m, unless such person is licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to this chapter.

(c) No person shall (1) use the title "social worker" or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under the description of "social worker", unless such person has earned a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, a

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doctoral degree in social work or, if educated outside of the United States or its territories, has completed an educational program deemed equivalent by said council.

[(c)] (d) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit: (1) A student enrolled in a doctoral or master's degree program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education from performing such work as is incidental to his course of study, provided such person is designated by a title which clearly indicates his status as a student; (2) a person licensed or certified in this state in a field other than clinical social work from practicing within the scope of such license or certification; (3) a person enrolled in an educational program or fulfilling other state requirements leading to licensure or certification in a field other than social work from engaging in work in such other field; (4) a person who is employed or retained as a social work designee, social worker, or social work consultant by a nursing home or rest home licensed under section 19a-490 and who meets the qualifications prescribed by the department in its regulations from performing the duties required of them in accordance with state and federal laws governing those duties; [(5) for the period from October 1, 2010, to October 1, 2013, inclusive, a master social worker from engaging in independent practice; (6)] (5) a social worker from practicing community organization, policy and planning, research or administration that does not include engaging in clinical social work or supervising a social worker engaged in clinical treatment with clients; [(7)] (6) individuals with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program from performing nonclinical social work functions; [and (8)] (7) a person who holds a professional educator certificate issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145b, with a school social worker endorsement, from using the title of school social worker to describe such person's activities while working in a public or nonpublic school in the state; (8) any person employed by a municipality prior to July 1, 2019, under the

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title social worker from using such title to describe or perform duties in the course of such employment with the municipality; and (9) a state employee with the title social worker from using such title to describe or perform duties in the course of such employment with the state. On and after October 1, 2019, the state shall specify on any job posting for a title in the social work series of classified service, in which a license pursuant to this chapter is not required, that a preferred qualification for employment in such title is completion of a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or a doctoral degree in social work.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 20-195s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

(a) An individual licensed as a master social worker pursuant to section 20-195n may: (1) Practice clinical social work under professional supervision; and (2) offer a mental health diagnosis provided such diagnosis is offered in consultation with a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383, a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a, a professional counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383c or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to this chapter. [Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 20-195q, a] A licensed master social worker may not engage in independent practice.