

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1456**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Eric P. Lesser*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to define clinical social work practice.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1456**

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1456) of Eric P. Lesser, Joanne M. Comerford and Erika Uyterhoeven for legislation to define clinical social work practice. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to define clinical social work practice.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 130 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the  
2 2018 General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the definition “The independent practice  
3 of clinical social work” and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

4 “Clinical social work practice”, social work performed by Master's level social workers  
5 applying evidence informed theories and methods in the comprehensive assessment and  
6 treatment of cognitive, affective, and behavioral disorders and distress arising from physical,  
7 environmental, psychological, emotional or relational conditions. The scope of clinical social  
8 work practice includes, but is not limited to: assessment; evaluation; psychotherapy and  
9 counseling for individuals, families, and groups; client-centered advocacy; consultation and  
10 supervision; and case management services. Clinical social workers practice within an ecological  
11 and ethically-principled framework in the areas of competence their education and training  
12 reflects. Social work practice is multi-systemic, trauma-informed, and committed to public health

- 13 and well-being. Social work's commitment to racial, economic, and social justice is central to the
- 14 National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.