

1-1 By: Harris S.B. No. 810  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 3, 2003; March 10, 2003, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;  
1-4 April 2, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 2, 2003,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 810 By: Deuell

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the regulation of social workers; providing a criminal  
1-11 penalty.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 505.001, Occupations Code, is amended to  
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 505.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the  
1-16 ~~[Professional]~~ Social Work Practice Act.

1-17 SECTION 2. Section 505.002, Occupations Code, is amended by  
1-18 amending Subdivision (3) and adding Subdivisions (4-a) and (4-b) to  
1-19 read as follows:

1-20 (3) "Council on Social Work Education" means the  
1-21 national organization that is primarily responsible for the  
1-22 accreditation of schools of social work in the United States or its  
1-23 successor approved by the board.

1-24 (4-a) "Licensed baccalaureate social worker" means a  
1-25 person who holds a baccalaureate social worker license issued by  
1-26 the board under this chapter.

1-27 (4-b) "Licensed clinical social worker" means a person  
1-28 who holds a clinical social worker license issued by the board under  
1-29 this chapter.

1-30 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 505, Occupations Code, is  
1-31 amended by adding Section 505.0025 to read as follows:

1-32 Sec. 505.0025. PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK. (a) The practice  
1-33 of social work is the application of social work theory, knowledge,  
1-34 methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or  
1-35 enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of  
1-36 individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or  
1-37 communities.

1-38 (b) The practice of social work may include the provision of  
1-39 individual, conjoint, family, and group psychotherapy using the  
1-40 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the  
1-41 International Classification of Diseases, and other diagnostic  
1-42 classification systems in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and  
1-43 other activities by a person licensed under this chapter.

1-44 SECTION 4. Section 505.003, Occupations Code, is amended to  
1-45 read as follows:

1-46 Sec. 505.003. APPLICATIONS AND EXEMPTIONS. (a) This  
1-47 chapter does not apply to:

1-48 (1) an activity conducted or a service performed by a  
1-49 person who is licensed, certified, or registered in a profession  
1-50 other than social work, including a physician, attorney, registered  
1-51 nurse, licensed vocational nurse, psychologist, occupational  
1-52 therapist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed  
1-53 chemical dependency counselor, or licensed professional counselor,  
1-54 if:

1-55 (A) the activity or service is conducted or  
1-56 performed within the scope of the person's license, certificate, or  
1-57 registration; ~~and~~

1-58 (B) the person does not use a title listed in  
1-59 Section 505.351; and

1-60 (C) the person does not:

1-61 (i) represent the service as social work;

1-62 (ii) represent that the person is a social  
1-63 worker; or

2-1 (iii) use a title that implies that the  
 2-2 person is licensed in social work;  
 2-3 (2) a service performed by a person as a volunteer or  
 2-4 staff member if the person does not:  
 2-5 (A) represent the service as [~~professional~~]  
 2-6 social work;  
 2-7 (B) represent the person as a social worker; [~~or~~]  
 2-8 (C) use a title that implies that the person is  
 2-9 licensed in [~~professional~~] social work; or  
 2-10 (D) engage in the practice of social work;  
 2-11 (3) an activity conducted by a social work student,  
 2-12 intern, or trainee in connection with an institution of higher  
 2-13 education accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;  
 2-14 (4) [~~an activity that is a part of a course of study~~  
 2-15 ~~for a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work if the person~~  
 2-16 ~~does not use a title that implies that the person is licensed in~~  
 2-17 ~~professional social work;~~  
 2-18 [~~(5)~~] a service performed by a person who does not  
 2-19 reside in this state if:  
 2-20 (A) the service is performed for fewer than 30  
 2-21 days in a calendar year; and  
 2-22 (B) the person is authorized to perform the  
 2-23 service under the laws of the state or country in which the person  
 2-24 resides; or  
 2-25 (5) [~~(6)~~] an activity conducted or a service performed  
 2-26 by a pastoral care counselor who is acting within the person's  
 2-27 ministerial capabilities and who does not use a title that implies  
 2-28 that the counselor is licensed in [~~professional~~] social work,  
 2-29 including:  
 2-30 (A) a Christian Science practitioner who is  
 2-31 recognized by the Church of Christ Scientist as registered and  
 2-32 published in the Christian Science Journal; and  
 2-33 (B) any other recognized religious  
 2-34 practitioner [~~, or~~  
 2-35 [~~(7) a person who does not:~~  
 2-36 [~~(A) directly or indirectly represent to the~~  
 2-37 ~~public that the person is licensed under this chapter; or~~  
 2-38 [~~(B) use a name, title, or designation indicating~~  
 2-39 ~~that the person is licensed under this chapter].~~  
 2-40 (b) This chapter does not require a public agency or private  
 2-41 employer, including a nonprofit corporation, to employ a person  
 2-42 licensed under this chapter [~~licensed master social worker,~~  
 2-43 ~~licensed social worker, or social work associate].~~  
 2-44 SECTION 5. Subsection (a), Section 505.101, Occupations  
 2-45 Code, is amended to read as follows:  
 2-46 (a) The Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners  
 2-47 consists of nine members appointed by the governor with the advice  
 2-48 and consent of the senate as follows:  
 2-49 (1) two [~~three~~] members who are licensed master social  
 2-50 workers [~~, at least two of whom are recognized as advanced clinical~~  
 2-51 ~~practitioners];~~  
 2-52 (2) two members who are licensed baccalaureate social  
 2-53 workers;  
 2-54 (3) two members who are licensed clinical social  
 2-55 workers [~~one member who is a social work associate]; and~~  
 2-56 (4) three members who represent the public.  
 2-57 SECTION 6. Section 505.201, Occupations Code, is amended by  
 2-58 adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:  
 2-59 (e) For each type of license issued under this chapter, the  
 2-60 board shall establish:  
 2-61 (1) the minimum eligibility requirements;  
 2-62 (2) educational requirements;  
 2-63 (3) professional experience criteria;  
 2-64 (4) supervision requirements; and  
 2-65 (5) independent practice criteria.  
 2-66 (f) The board shall establish procedures for recognition of  
 2-67 independent practice.  
 2-68 SECTION 7. Subsection (a), Section 505.205, Occupations  
 2-69 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3-1 (a) The board shall prepare and publish at its discretion a  
3-2 roster that contains the name and address of each person licensed  
3-3 under this chapter [~~licensed master social worker, licensed social~~  
3-4 ~~worker, and social work associate as stated in the board's~~  
3-5 ~~records~~].

3-6 SECTION 8. Section 505.206, Occupations Code, is amended to  
3-7 read as follows:

3-8 Sec. 505.206. ROSTER OF [~~PRIVATE AND~~] INDEPENDENT SOCIAL  
3-9 WORKERS. The board shall publish a roster of persons recognized  
3-10 under Section 505.307 as qualified for the [~~private and~~]  
3-11 independent practice of social work.

3-12 SECTION 9. Subsection (a), Section 505.254, Occupations  
3-13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3-14 (a) The board shall adopt rules concerning the  
3-15 investigation of a complaint filed with the department and referred  
3-16 to the board. The rules adopted under this subsection must:

3-17 (1) distinguish among categories of complaints;

3-18 (2) ensure that a complaint is not dismissed without  
3-19 appropriate consideration;

3-20 (3) require that the board be advised of a complaint  
3-21 that is dismissed and that a letter be sent to the person who filed  
3-22 the complaint explaining the action taken on the dismissed  
3-23 complaint;

3-24 (4) ensure that the person who filed the complaint has  
3-25 an opportunity to explain the allegations made in the complaint;  
3-26 [~~and~~]

3-27 (5) prescribe guidelines concerning the categories of  
3-28 complaints that require the use of a private investigator and the  
3-29 procedures for the board to obtain the services of a private  
3-30 investigator; and

3-31 (6) prescribe the time after an act or omission during  
3-32 which a person may file a complaint with the board regarding the act  
3-33 or omission in order for the board to consider the complaint.

3-34 SECTION 10. Subsection (h), Section 505.2545, Occupations  
3-35 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3-36 (h) All information and materials subpoenaed or compiled by  
3-37 the board in connection with a complaint and investigation are  
3-38 confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552,  
3-39 Government Code, and not subject to disclosure, discovery,  
3-40 subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to  
3-41 anyone other than the board or its employees or agents involved in  
3-42 discipline of the holder of a license or order of recognition,  
3-43 except that this information may be disclosed to:

3-44 (1) persons involved with the board in a disciplinary  
3-45 action against the holder of a license or order of recognition;

3-46 (2) [~~professional~~] social work licensing or  
3-47 disciplinary boards in other jurisdictions;

3-48 (3) peer assistance programs approved by the board  
3-49 under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code;

3-50 (4) law enforcement agencies; and

3-51 (5) persons engaged in bona fide research, if all  
3-52 individual-identifying information has been deleted.

3-53 SECTION 11. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 505.301,  
3-54 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

3-55 (a) The board may establish within the scope of social work  
3-56 practice and this chapter [~~a~~] specialty areas [~~area~~] of social work  
3-57 for license holders under this chapter who are licensed [~~master~~  
3-58 ~~social workers~~] in good standing if establishment of the specialty  
3-59 areas [~~area~~]:

3-60 (1) is necessary to promote the public interest; and

3-61 (2) assists the public in identifying qualified  
3-62 persons in a social work practice specialty [~~the profession who~~  
3-63 ~~perform specialty social work~~].

3-64 (b) The board may not authorize a specialty area within the  
3-65 practice of social work unless the board sets the minimum  
3-66 qualifications for [~~the private practice of social work except for~~  
3-67 ~~a licensed master social worker who satisfies the minimum number of~~  
3-68 ~~years of active~~] social work practice with appropriate supervision  
3-69 and examination, as determined by the board.

4-1 SECTION 12. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 505.303,  
4-2 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

4-3 (b) A person may not use the title "Licensed Clinical Social  
4-4 Worker" [~~"Advanced Clinical Practitioner"~~] or the initials "LCSW"  
4-5 [~~"A.C.P."~~] unless the person is recognized as qualified for the  
4-6 independent practice of clinical social work.

4-7 (c) For purposes of Article 21.52, Insurance Code:

4-8 (1) a person recognized as qualified for the  
4-9 independent practice of clinical social work may use the title  
4-10 "Licensed Clinical Social Worker" [~~"Advanced Clinical~~  
4-11 ~~Practitioner"~~] or another [~~other~~] title approved by the board; and

4-12 (2) a board-approved title under this subsection has  
4-13 the same meaning and effect as the title "Licensed Clinical Social  
4-14 Worker." [~~"Advanced Clinical Practitioner."~~]

4-15 SECTION 13. Sections 505.305, 505.306, 505.307, and  
4-16 505.351, Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

4-17 Sec. 505.305. RECOGNITION OF SPECIALTY; ISSUANCE OF ORDER.

4-18 (a) The board shall recognize a [~~licensed master~~] social worker as  
4-19 qualified for the practice of a specialty area of social work if the  
4-20 [~~licensed master~~] social worker satisfies the recognition  
4-21 requirements established by the board and the board determines that  
4-22 the person is worthy of the public trust in performing services  
4-23 within the scope of the specialty area.

4-24 (b) The board shall issue an order of recognition of  
4-25 specialty to a [~~licensed master~~] social worker who is recognized as  
4-26 qualified for the practice of a specialty area of social work. The  
4-27 order of recognition of specialty evidences the state's recognition  
4-28 of the [~~licensed master~~] social worker as a specialty social work  
4-29 practitioner under the [~~professional~~] identification or title  
4-30 designated by the board.

4-31 Sec. 505.306. PROHIBITED USE OF SPECIALTY AREA  
4-32 IDENTIFICATION OR TITLE. If the board establishes a specialty area  
4-33 of social work, a [~~licensed master~~] social worker may not use the  
4-34 specialty area [~~professional~~] identification or title designated  
4-35 by the board unless the person is recognized as qualified for the  
4-36 practice of the specialty area under this chapter.

4-37 Sec. 505.307. [~~PRIVATE AND~~] INDEPENDENT PRACTICE  
4-38 RECOGNITION; MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS. (a) The board shall  
4-39 establish procedures for recognizing a [~~licensed master~~] social  
4-40 worker qualified for the [~~private and~~] independent practice of  
4-41 social work.

4-42 (b) A [~~licensed master~~] social worker may not be recognized  
4-43 as qualified for the [~~private and~~] independent practice of social  
4-44 work unless the person satisfies the requirements of social work  
4-45 education, experience, and supervision [~~minimum number of years of~~  
4-46 ~~acceptable social work experience~~] as determined by the board.

4-47 [~~(c) A licensed social worker or social work associate is~~  
4-48 ~~not eligible for recognition as qualified for the private and~~  
4-49 ~~independent practice of social work.~~]

4-50 Sec. 505.351. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) A person may not use  
4-51 or cause to be used the title "social worker," "licensed  
4-52 baccalaureate social worker," "licensed master social worker,"  
4-53 "licensed clinical social worker," or "licensed social worker," [~~or~~  
4-54 ~~"social work associate,"~~] or any combination, variation, or  
4-55 abbreviation of those titles, as a professional or business  
4-56 identification, representation, asset, or means of obtaining a  
4-57 benefit unless the person holds an appropriate license issued under  
4-58 this chapter.

4-59 (b) A person may not use a title that implies that the person  
4-60 holds a license in [~~professional~~] social work unless the person  
4-61 holds an appropriate license issued under this chapter.

4-62 (c) A person who engages in or attempts to engage in conduct  
4-63 described by this section is considered to be engaged in the  
4-64 practice of [~~professional~~] social work.

4-65 SECTION 14. Subsection (b), Section 505.353, Occupations  
4-66 Code, is amended to read as follows:

4-67 (b) An applicant may take the licensing examination  
4-68 conducted by the board under Section 505.354 for:

4-69 (1) a master social worker license if the applicant

5-1 possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from a  
5-2 graduate program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
5-3 Education;

5-4 (2) a baccalaureate social worker license if the  
5-5 applicant possesses a baccalaureate degree in social work from an  
5-6 educational program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
5-7 Education; or

5-8 (3) a clinical social worker license if the applicant  
5-9 possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from an  
5-10 accredited graduate program approved by the board and meets the  
5-11 qualifications for clinical social work practice as determined by  
5-12 the board under this chapter [~~a social work associate license if the~~  
5-13 ~~applicant:~~

5-14 [~~(A) possesses a baccalaureate degree in the~~  
5-15 ~~behavioral or social sciences or a related field other than social~~  
5-16 ~~work from an accredited educational institution; and~~

5-17 [~~(B) satisfactorily completes a reasonable~~  
5-18 ~~specified number of years of actual and active social work~~  
5-19 ~~experience approved by the board].~~

5-20 SECTION 15. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 505.358,  
5-21 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

5-22 (a) A person may apply for a provisional license as a social  
5-23 worker [~~or social work associate~~] by paying the appropriate fee and  
5-24 filing an application with the board. The board may issue a  
5-25 provisional license to a person who meets the requirements of this  
5-26 section.

5-27 (b) An applicant for a provisional license must:

5-28 (1) be licensed or certified in good standing as a  
5-29 social worker [~~or social work associate, as appropriate,~~] in  
5-30 another state that has licensing or certification requirements  
5-31 determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to the  
5-32 requirements of this chapter;

5-33 (2) have passed a national or other examination  
5-34 recognized by the board relating to the practice of social work;  
5-35 and

5-36 (3) be sponsored by a person licensed under this  
5-37 chapter with whom the provisional license holder may practice  
5-38 social work.

5-39 SECTION 16. Section 505.360, Occupations Code, is amended  
5-40 by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (e) to  
5-41 read as follows:

5-42 (b) A licensed master social worker shall use the  
5-43 identification "licensed master social worker" or the initials  
5-44 "LMSW." [~~"L.M.S.W."~~]

5-45 (c) A licensed baccalaureate social worker shall use the  
5-46 identification "licensed baccalaureate social worker" or the  
5-47 initials "LBSW." [~~"L.S.W."~~]

5-48 (e) A licensed clinical social worker shall use the  
5-49 identification "licensed clinical social worker" or the initials  
5-50 "LCSW."

5-51 SECTION 17. Subsection (a), Section 505.404, Occupations  
5-52 Code, is amended to read as follows:

5-53 (a) The board by rule shall:

5-54 (1) establish mandatory continuing education  
5-55 requirements for license holders under this chapter [~~licensed~~  
5-56 ~~master social workers, licensed social workers, and social work~~  
5-57 ~~associates~~]; and

5-58 (2) establish a minimum number of hours of continuing  
5-59 education required to renew a license or an order of recognition of  
5-60 specialty.

5-61 SECTION 18. Section 505.502, Occupations Code, is amended  
5-62 to read as follows:

5-63 Sec. 505.502. PROHIBITED CONDUCT BY BUSINESS OR  
5-64 PROFESSIONAL ENTITY. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a  
5-65 business or professional entity may not:

5-66 (1) represent itself or another to the public as being  
5-67 engaged in the practice of social work or as offering social work  
5-68 services under an assumed, trade, business, professional,  
5-69 partnership, or corporate name or title;

6-1 (2) directly or indirectly use or cause to be used the  
6-2 term "social work," "social work services," "social work, inc.,"  
6-3 "[~~professional~~] social workers," "licensed social workers,"  
6-4 "licensed baccalaureate social workers," "licensed master social  
6-5 workers," "licensed clinical social workers," "LMSW," "LSW,"  
6-6 "LBSW," or "LCSW," [~~"social work associate," "L.M.S.W.," "L.S.W.,"~~  
6-7 ~~or "S.W.A."~~] or any combination, abbreviation, or variation of  
6-8 those terms; or

6-9 (3) directly or indirectly use or cause to be used a  
6-10 term listed in Subdivision (2) in combination with any other word,  
6-11 letter, initial, sign, legend, or symbol on, in, or directly or  
6-12 indirectly as a part of:

6-13 (A) any sign, directory, contract, pamphlet,  
6-14 stationery, advertisement, or other document;

6-15 (B) a signature; or

6-16 (C) a trade, assumed, corporate, or other  
6-17 business or professional name.

6-18 (b) A business or professional entity may engage in conduct  
6-19 described by Subsection (a) if:

6-20 (1) the entity is actively engaged in the practice of  
6-21 social work; and

6-22 (2) the social work services that constitute the  
6-23 entity's practice are:

6-24 (A) personally performed by a social worker who  
6-25 is practicing in accordance with this chapter; or

6-26 (B) performed under the supervision of a licensed  
6-27 baccalaureate social worker, [~~or~~] licensed master social worker, or  
6-28 licensed clinical social worker.

6-29 SECTION 19. Subchapter J, Chapter 505, Occupations Code, is  
6-30 amended by adding Section 505.507 to read as follows:

6-31 Sec. 505.507. CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) A person commits an  
6-32 offense if the person knowingly acts as a social worker without  
6-33 holding a license required under this chapter.

6-34 (b) An offense under Subsection (a) is a Class B  
6-35 misdemeanor.

6-36 SECTION 20. Subsection (1), Section 9, Article 42.12, Code  
6-37 of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

6-38 (1) If a person is a sex offender, a supervision officer may  
6-39 release information in a presentence or postsentence report  
6-40 concerning the social and criminal history of the person to a person  
6-41 who:

6-42 (1) is licensed or certified in this state to provide  
6-43 mental health or medical services, including a:

6-44 (A) physician;

6-45 (B) psychiatrist;

6-46 (C) psychologist;

6-47 (D) licensed professional counselor;

6-48 (E) licensed marriage and family therapist; or

6-49 (F) [~~certified~~] social worker; and

6-50 (2) provides mental health or medical services for the  
6-51 rehabilitation of the person.

6-52 SECTION 21. Subsection (a), Section 202.002, Family Code,  
6-53 is amended to read as follows:

6-54 (a) A friend of the court may coordinate nonjudicial efforts  
6-55 to improve compliance with a court order relating to child support  
6-56 or possession of or access to a child by use of:

6-57 (1) telephone communication;

6-58 (2) written communication;

6-59 (3) one or more volunteer advocates under Chapter 107;

6-60 (4) informal pretrial consultation;

6-61 (5) one or more of the alternate dispute resolution  
6-62 methods under Chapter 154, Civil Practice and Remedies Code;

6-63 (6) a licensed [~~certified~~] social worker;

6-64 (7) a family mediator; and

6-65 (8) employment agencies, retraining programs, and any  
6-66 similar resources to ensure that both parents can meet their  
6-67 financial obligations to the child.

6-68 SECTION 22. Subsection (e), Section 493.009, Government  
6-69 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7-1 (e) The department shall employ or contract with qualified  
7-2 professionals to implement the program for persons required to  
7-3 participate in the program under Section 14, Article 42.12, Code of  
7-4 Criminal Procedure. For purposes of this subsection, a "qualified  
7-5 professional" is a person who:

7-6 (1) is a licensed chemical dependency [~~certified~~  
7-7 ~~alcohol and drug abuse~~] counselor;

7-8 (2) is a licensed [~~certified~~] social worker [~~or~~  
7-9 ~~advanced clinical practitioner and~~] who has at least two years of  
7-10 experience in chemical dependency counseling; or

7-11 (3) is a licensed professional counselor, physician,  
7-12 or psychologist and who has at least two years of experience in  
7-13 chemical dependency counseling.

7-14 SECTION 23. Subsection (f), Section 501.0931, Government  
7-15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7-16 (f) The institutional division shall employ or contract  
7-17 with qualified professionals to implement the program. For  
7-18 purposes of this subsection, a "qualified professional" is a person  
7-19 who:

7-20 (1) is a licensed chemical dependency [~~certified~~  
7-21 ~~alcohol and drug abuse~~] counselor;

7-22 (2) is a licensed [~~certified~~] social worker [~~or~~  
7-23 ~~advanced clinical practitioner and~~] who has at least two years of  
7-24 experience in chemical dependency counseling; or

7-25 (3) is a licensed professional counselor, physician,  
7-26 or psychologist and who has at least two years of experience in  
7-27 chemical dependency counseling.

7-28 SECTION 24. Subsection (a), Section 61.0285, Health and  
7-29 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

7-30 (a) In addition to basic health care services provided under  
7-31 Section 61.028, a county may, in accordance with department rules  
7-32 adopted under Section 61.006, provide other medically necessary  
7-33 services or supplies that the county determines to be  
7-34 cost-effective, including:

7-35 (1) ambulatory surgical center services;

7-36 (2) diabetic and colostomy medical supplies and  
7-37 equipment;

7-38 (3) durable medical equipment;

7-39 (4) home and community health care services;

7-40 (5) social work services [~~provided by licensed master~~  
7-41 ~~medical social workers--advanced clinical practitioners~~];

7-42 (6) psychological counseling services;

7-43 (7) services provided by physician assistants, nurse  
7-44 practitioners, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse  
7-45 specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists;

7-46 (8) dental care;

7-47 (9) vision care, including eyeglasses;

7-48 (10) services provided by federally qualified health  
7-49 centers, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d(1)(2)(B);

7-50 (11) emergency medical services; and

7-51 (12) any other appropriate health care service  
7-52 identified by board rule that may be determined to be  
7-53 cost-effective.

7-54 SECTION 25. Subdivision (27), Section 142.001, Health and  
7-55 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

7-56 (27) "Social worker" means an individual licensed as a  
7-57 social worker under Chapter 505, Occupations [~~50, Human Resources~~]  
7-58 Code.

7-59 SECTION 26. Subdivision (5), Section 467.001, Health and  
7-60 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

7-61 (5) "Professional" means an individual who:

7-62 (A) may incorporate under The Texas Professional  
7-63 Corporation Act (Article 1528e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); or

7-64 (B) is licensed, registered, certified, or  
7-65 otherwise authorized by the state to practice as a licensed  
7-66 vocational nurse, [~~certified~~] social worker, occupational  
7-67 therapist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or licensed  
7-68 dietitian.

7-69 SECTION 27. Subdivision (15), Section 571.003, Health and

8-1 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

8-2 (15) "Non-physician mental health professional"  
8-3 means:

8-4 (A) a psychologist licensed to practice in this  
8-5 state and designated as a health-service provider;

8-6 (B) a registered nurse with a master's or  
8-7 doctoral degree in psychiatric nursing;

8-8 (C) a licensed clinical social worker [~~with a~~  
8-9 ~~master's or doctoral degree and advanced clinical practitioner~~  
8-10 ~~recognition~~];

8-11 (D) a licensed professional counselor licensed  
8-12 to practice in this state; or

8-13 (E) a licensed marriage and family therapist  
8-14 licensed to practice in this state.

8-15 SECTION 28. Subsection (B), Section 2, Chapter 397, Acts of  
8-16 the 54th Legislature, Regular Session, 1955 (Article 3.70-2,  
8-17 Vernon's Texas Insurance Code), is amended to read as follows:

8-18 (B) No policy of accident and sickness insurance shall make  
8-19 benefits contingent upon treatment or examination by a particular  
8-20 practitioner or by particular practitioners of the healing arts  
8-21 hereinafter designated unless such policy contains a provision  
8-22 designating the practitioner or practitioners who will be  
8-23 recognized by the insurer and those who will not be recognized by  
8-24 the insurer. Such provision may be located in the "Exceptions" or  
8-25 "Exceptions and Reductions" provisions, or elsewhere in the policy,  
8-26 or by endorsement attached to the policy, at the insurer's option.  
8-27 In designating the practitioners who will and will not be  
8-28 recognized, such provision shall use the following terms: Doctor  
8-29 of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Dentistry, Doctor of  
8-30 Chiropractic, Doctor of Optometry, Doctor of Podiatry, Licensed  
8-31 Audiologist, Licensed Speech-language Pathologist, Doctor in  
8-32 Psychology, Licensed Clinical [~~Master~~] Social Worker  
8-33 [~~Worker--Advanced Clinical Practitioner~~], Licensed Dietitian,  
8-34 Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family  
8-35 Therapist, Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Licensed  
8-36 Hearing Instrument Fitter and Dispenser, Advanced Practice Nurse,  
8-37 Physician Assistant, Licensed Occupational Therapist, Licensed  
8-38 Physical Therapist, Licensed Acupuncturist, Licensed Psychological  
8-39 Associate, and Licensed Surgical Assistant.

8-40 For purposes of this Act, such designations shall have the  
8-41 following meanings:

8-42 Doctor of Medicine: One licensed by the Texas State Board of  
8-43 Medical Examiners on the basis of the degree "Doctor of Medicine";

8-44 Doctor of Osteopathy: One licensed by the Texas State Board  
8-45 of Medical Examiners on the basis of the degree of "Doctor of  
8-46 Osteopathy";

8-47 Doctor of Dentistry: One licensed by the State Board of  
8-48 Dental Examiners;

8-49 Doctor of Chiropractic: One licensed by the Texas Board of  
8-50 Chiropractic Examiners;

8-51 Doctor of Optometry: One licensed by the Texas Optometry  
8-52 Board;

8-53 Doctor of Podiatry: One licensed by the Texas State Board of  
8-54 Podiatric Medical Examiners;

8-55 Licensed Audiologist: One with a master's or doctorate degree  
8-56 in audiology from an accredited college or university and who is  
8-57 licensed as an audiologist by the State Board of Examiners for  
8-58 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology;

8-59 Licensed Speech-language Pathologist: One with a master's or  
8-60 doctorate degree in speech pathology or speech-language pathology  
8-61 from an accredited college or university and who is licensed as a  
8-62 speech-language pathologist by the State Board of Examiners for  
8-63 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology;

8-64 Doctor in Psychology: One licensed by the Texas State Board  
8-65 of Examiners of Psychologists and certified as a Health Service  
8-66 Provider;

8-67 Licensed Clinical [~~Master~~] Social Worker [~~Worker--Advanced~~  
8-68 ~~Clinical Practitioner~~]: One licensed by the Texas State Board of  
8-69 Social Worker Examiners as a Licensed Clinical [~~Master~~] Social



9-1 Worker [~~with the order of recognition of Advanced Clinical~~  
9-2 ~~Practitioner~~];

9-3 Licensed Dietitian: One licensed by the Texas State Board of  
9-4 Examiners of Dietitians;

9-5 Licensed Professional Counselor: One licensed by the Texas  
9-6 State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors;

9-7 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist: One licensed by the  
9-8 Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists;

9-9 Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor: One licensed by the  
9-10 Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse;

9-11 Licensed Hearing Instrument Fitter and Dispenser: One  
9-12 licensed by the State Committee of Examiners in the Fitting and  
9-13 Dispensing of Hearing Instruments;

9-14 Advanced Practice Nurse: One licensed by the Board of Nurse  
9-15 Examiners as a registered nurse and recognized by that board as an  
9-16 advanced practice nurse;

9-17 Physician Assistant: One licensed by the Texas State Board of  
9-18 Physician Assistant Examiners;

9-19 Licensed Occupational Therapist: One licensed by the Texas  
9-20 Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners;

9-21 Licensed Physical Therapist: One licensed by the Texas Board  
9-22 of Physical Therapy Examiners;

9-23 Licensed Acupuncturist: One licensed by the Texas State Board  
9-24 of Medical Examiners as an acupuncturist;

9-25 Licensed Psychological Associate: One licensed by the Texas  
9-26 State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and practicing under the  
9-27 supervision of a licensed psychologist; and

9-28 Licensed Surgical Assistant: One licensed by the Texas State  
9-29 Board of Medical Examiners as a surgical assistant.

9-30 SECTION 29. Section 1, Article 21.52, Insurance Code, as  
9-31 amended by Chapters 812 and 1014, Acts of the 77th Legislature,  
9-32 Regular Session, 2001, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

9-33 Sec. 1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this article:

9-34 (a) "health insurance policy" means any individual,  
9-35 group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy, insurance  
9-36 agreement, or group hospital service contract, providing benefits  
9-37 for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of an accident  
9-38 or sickness;

9-39 (b) "doctor of podiatric medicine" includes D.P.M.,  
9-40 podiatrist, doctor of surgical chiropody, D.S.C. and chiropodist;

9-41 (c) "doctor of optometry" includes optometrist,  
9-42 doctor of optometry, and O.D.;

9-43 (d) "doctor of chiropractic" means a person who is  
9-44 licensed by the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners to practice  
9-45 chiropractic;

9-46 (e) "licensed dentist" means a person who is licensed  
9-47 to practice dentistry by the State Board of Dental Examiners;

9-48 (f) "licensed audiologist" means a person who has  
9-49 received a master's or doctorate degree in audiology from an  
9-50 accredited college or university and is licensed as an audiologist  
9-51 by the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and  
9-52 Audiology;

9-53 (g) "licensed speech-language pathologist" means a  
9-54 person who has received a master's or doctorate degree in  
9-55 speech-language pathology from an accredited college or university  
9-56 and is licensed as a speech-language pathologist by the State Board  
9-57 of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology;

9-58 (h) "licensed clinical [~~master~~] social worker"  
9-59 [~~worker--advanced clinical practitioner~~] means a person who is  
9-60 licensed by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners as a  
9-61 licensed clinical [~~master~~] social worker [~~with the order of~~  
9-62 ~~recognition of advanced clinical practitioner~~];

9-63 (i) "licensed dietitian" means a person who is  
9-64 licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians;

9-65 (j) "licensed professional counselor" means a person  
9-66 who is licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
9-67 Professional Counselors;

9-68 (k) "psychologist" means a person licensed to practice  
9-69 psychology by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists;

10-1 (l) "licensed marriage and family therapist" means a  
 10-2 person who is licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
 10-3 Marriage and Family Therapists;

10-4 (m) "licensed chemical dependency counselor" means a  
 10-5 person who is licensed by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug  
 10-6 Abuse;

10-7 (n) "licensed hearing instrument fitter and  
 10-8 dispenser" means a person who is licensed by the State Committee of  
 10-9 Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments;

10-10 (o) "licensed psychological associate" means a person  
 10-11 who is licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
 10-12 Psychologists and who practices under the supervision of a licensed  
 10-13 psychologist;

10-14 (p) "occupational therapist" means a person who is  
 10-15 licensed to practice occupational therapy by the Texas Board of  
 10-16 Occupational Therapy Examiners;

10-17 (q) "physical therapist" means a person who practices  
 10-18 physical therapy and is licensed by the Texas Board of Physical  
 10-19 Therapy Examiners;

10-20 (r) "advanced practice nurse" means a person licensed  
 10-21 by the Board of Nurse Examiners and recognized by that board as an  
 10-22 advanced practice nurse;

10-23 (s) "licensed acupuncturist" means a person licensed  
 10-24 to practice acupuncture by the Texas State Board of Medical  
 10-25 Examiners;

10-26 (t) "physician assistant" means a person licensed by  
 10-27 the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners;

10-28 (u) "nurse first assistant" has the meaning assigned  
 10-29 by Section 301.1525, Occupations Code; and

10-30 (v) "Surgical assistant" means a person licensed by  
 10-31 the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners as a surgical assistant.

10-32 SECTION 30. Subsection (a), Section 3, Article 21.52,  
 10-33 Insurance Code, as amended by Chapters 812 and 1014, Acts of the  
 10-34 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is reenacted and amended  
 10-35 to read as follows:

10-36 (a) Any person who is issued, who is a party to, or who is a  
 10-37 beneficiary under any health insurance policy delivered, renewed,  
 10-38 or issued for delivery in this state by any insurance company,  
 10-39 association, or organization to which this article applies may  
 10-40 select:

10-41 (1) a licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, a  
 10-42 licensed dentist, or a doctor of chiropractic to perform the  
 10-43 medical or surgical services or procedures scheduled in the policy  
 10-44 which fall within the scope of the license of that practitioner;

10-45 (2) a licensed doctor of optometry to perform the  
 10-46 services or procedures scheduled in the policy which fall within  
 10-47 the scope of the license of that doctor of optometry;

10-48 (3) an occupational therapist to provide the services  
 10-49 scheduled in the policy which fall within the scope of the license  
 10-50 of that occupational therapist;

10-51 (4) a physical therapist to provide the services  
 10-52 scheduled in the policy which fall within the scope of the license  
 10-53 of that physical therapist;

10-54 (5) a licensed audiologist to measure hearing for the  
 10-55 purpose of determining the presence or extent of a hearing loss and  
 10-56 to provide aural rehabilitation services to a person with a hearing  
 10-57 loss if those services or procedures are scheduled in the policy;

10-58 (6) a licensed speech-language pathologist to  
 10-59 evaluate speech and language and to provide habilitative and  
 10-60 rehabilitative services to restore speech or language loss or to  
 10-61 correct a speech or language impairment if those services or  
 10-62 procedures are scheduled in the policy;

10-63 (7) a licensed clinical [~~master~~] social worker  
 10-64 [~~worker--advanced clinical practitioner~~] to provide the services  
 10-65 that fall within the scope of the license of such [~~certified~~]  
 10-66 practitioner and which are specified as services within the terms  
 10-67 of the policy of insurance, including the provision of direct,  
 10-68 diagnostic, preventive, or clinical services to individuals,  
 10-69 families, and groups whose functioning is threatened or affected by

11-1 social or psychological stress or health impairment, if those  
11-2 services or procedures are scheduled in the policy;

11-3 (8) a licensed dietitian including a provisional  
11-4 licensed dietitian under a licensed dietitian's supervision to  
11-5 provide the services that fall within the scope of the license of  
11-6 that dietitian if those services are scheduled in the policy;

11-7 (9) a licensed professional counselor to provide the  
11-8 services that fall within the scope of the license of that  
11-9 professional if those services are scheduled in the policy;

11-10 (10) a licensed marriage and family therapist to  
11-11 provide the services that fall within the scope of the license of  
11-12 that professional if those services are scheduled in the policy;

11-13 (11) a psychologist to perform the services or  
11-14 procedures scheduled in the policy that fall within the scope of the  
11-15 license of that psychologist;

11-16 (12) a licensed chemical dependency counselor to  
11-17 perform the services or procedures scheduled in the policy that  
11-18 fall within the scope of the license of that practitioner;

11-19 (13) a licensed acupuncturist to perform the services  
11-20 or procedures scheduled in the policy that fall within the scope of  
11-21 the license of that practitioner;

11-22 (14) an advanced practice nurse to provide the  
11-23 services scheduled in the policy that fall within the scope of the  
11-24 license of that practitioner;

11-25 (15) a physician assistant to provide the services  
11-26 scheduled in the policy that fall within the scope of the license of  
11-27 that practitioner;

11-28 (16) a licensed hearing instrument fitter and  
11-29 dispenser to provide the services or procedures scheduled in the  
11-30 policy that fall within the scope of the license of that  
11-31 practitioner;

11-32 (17) a licensed psychological associate to provide the  
11-33 services that fall within the scope of the license of that  
11-34 professional if those services are scheduled in the policy;

11-35 (18) a licensed surgical assistant to provide the  
11-36 services or procedures scheduled in the policy that fall within the  
11-37 scope of the license of that practitioner; or

11-38 (19) a nurse first assistant to provide the services  
11-39 scheduled in the policy that:

11-40 (A) fall within the scope of the license of that  
11-41 practitioner; and

11-42 (B) are requested by the physician whom the nurse  
11-43 is assisting.

11-44 SECTION 31. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 3, Article  
11-45 21.52, Insurance Code, are amended to read as follows:

11-46 (b) The services of a [~~licensed master social~~  
11-47 ~~worker--advanced clinical practitioner,~~] licensed professional  
11-48 counselor[~~7~~] or licensed marriage and family therapist that are  
11-49 included in this Act may require a professional recommendation by a  
11-50 doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy unless the health  
11-51 insurance policy terms do not require such a recommendation.

11-52 (c) The payment or reimbursement by the insurance company,  
11-53 association, or organization for services or procedures in  
11-54 accordance with the payment schedule or the payment provisions in  
11-55 the policy shall not be denied because the same were performed by a  
11-56 licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, a licensed doctor of  
11-57 optometry, a licensed doctor of chiropractic, a licensed dentist,  
11-58 an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a licensed  
11-59 audiologist, a licensed speech-language pathologist, a licensed  
11-60 clinical [~~master~~] social worker [~~worker--advanced clinical~~  
11-61 ~~practitioner~~], a licensed dietitian, a licensed professional  
11-62 counselor, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a  
11-63 psychologist, a licensed psychological associate, a licensed  
11-64 chemical dependency counselor, an advanced practice nurse, a nurse  
11-65 first assistant, a physician assistant, a licensed acupuncturist,  
11-66 or a licensed hearing instrument fitter and dispenser.

11-67 SECTION 32. Subsection (d), Section 3, Article 21.52,  
11-68 Insurance Code, as amended by Chapters 812 and 1014, Acts of the  
11-69 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is amended to read as

12-1 follows:

12-2 (d) There shall not be any classification, differentiation,  
 12-3 or other discrimination in the payment schedule or the payment  
 12-4 provisions in a health insurance policy, nor in the amount or manner  
 12-5 of payment or reimbursement thereunder, between scheduled services  
 12-6 or procedures when performed by a doctor of podiatric medicine, a  
 12-7 doctor of optometry, a doctor of chiropractic, a licensed dentist,  
 12-8 an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a licensed  
 12-9 audiologist, a licensed speech-language pathologist, a licensed  
 12-10 clinical [~~master~~] social worker [~~worker--advanced--clinical~~  
 12-11 ~~practitioner~~], a licensed dietitian, a licensed professional  
 12-12 counselor, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a  
 12-13 psychologist, a licensed psychological associate, a licensed  
 12-14 chemical dependency counselor, an advanced practice nurse to  
 12-15 provide the services scheduled in the policy, a nurse first  
 12-16 assistant to provide the services scheduled in the policy and  
 12-17 requested by the physician whom the nurse is assisting, a physician  
 12-18 assistant to provide the services scheduled in the policy, a  
 12-19 licensed acupuncturist, or a licensed hearing instrument fitter and  
 12-20 dispenser which fall within the scope of that practitioner's  
 12-21 license or certification and the same services or procedures when  
 12-22 performed by any other practitioner of the healing arts whose  
 12-23 services or procedures are covered by the policy. However, a health  
 12-24 insurance policy may provide for a different amount of payment or  
 12-25 reimbursement for scheduled services or procedures when performed  
 12-26 by an advanced practice nurse, a nurse first assistant, licensed  
 12-27 surgical assistant, or physician assistant provided the  
 12-28 reimbursement methodology used to calculate the payment for the  
 12-29 service or procedure is the same methodology used to calculate the  
 12-30 payment when the service or procedure is provided by a physician.

12-31 SECTION 33. Subsection (a), Section 205.303, Occupations  
 12-32 Code, is amended to read as follows:

12-33 (a) The medical board may certify a person as an acudetox  
 12-34 specialist under this section if the person:

12-35 (1) provides to the medical board documentation that  
 12-36 the person:

12-37 (A) is a licensed [~~certified~~] social worker,  
 12-38 licensed professional counselor, licensed psychologist, licensed  
 12-39 chemical dependency counselor, licensed vocational nurse, or  
 12-40 licensed registered nurse; and

12-41 (B) has successfully completed a training  
 12-42 program in acupuncture detoxification that meets guidelines  
 12-43 approved by the medical board; and

12-44 (2) pays a certification fee in an amount set by the  
 12-45 medical board.

12-46 SECTION 34. Section 502.004, Occupations Code, is amended  
 12-47 to read as follows:

12-48 Sec. 502.004. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER. This chapter does  
 12-49 not apply to:

12-50 (1) the activities of a person employed to perform  
 12-51 marriage and family therapy by a federal, state, county, or  
 12-52 municipal agency or a public or private educational institution, if  
 12-53 the activities are within the scope of the person's employment;

12-54 (2) the activities of a student, intern, or trainee in  
 12-55 marriage and family therapy in a recognized course of study in  
 12-56 marriage and family therapy at an accredited institution of higher  
 12-57 education or other training institution, if:

12-58 (A) the activities constitute a part of the  
 12-59 course of study; and

12-60 (B) the person is called a "marriage and family  
 12-61 therapist intern" or similar title;

12-62 (3) services provided by a person who is not a resident  
 12-63 of this state if:

12-64 (A) the services are performed for 30 days or  
 12-65 less during a calendar year; and

12-66 (B) the person is authorized to provide the  
 12-67 services under the law of the state or country of the person's  
 12-68 residence;

12-69 (4) the activities and services of a person licensed

13-1 to practice another profession, including a physician, attorney,  
13-2 registered nurse, occupational therapist, psychologist,  
13-3 [~~certified~~] social worker, or licensed professional counselor; or  
13-4 (5) the activities and services of a recognized  
13-5 religious practitioner, including a pastoral counselor or  
13-6 Christian Science practitioner recognized by the Church of Christ  
13-7 Scientist as registered and published in the Christian Science  
13-8 Journal, if the practitioner practices marriage and family therapy  
13-9 in a manner consistent with the laws of this state.

13-10 SECTION 35. Subdivision (7), Section 1, Chapter 462, Acts  
13-11 of the 68th Legislature, Regular Session, 1983 (Article 4413(51),  
13-12 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

13-13 (7) "Sex offender treatment provider" means a person,  
13-14 licensed or certified to practice in this state, who provides  
13-15 mental health or medical services for rehabilitation of sex  
13-16 offenders, including a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist,  
13-17 licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family  
13-18 therapist, or [~~certified~~] social worker.

13-19 SECTION 36. Section 4, Article 4512g-1, Revised Statutes,  
13-20 is amended to read as follows:

13-21 Sec. 4. RELEASE OF INFORMATION BY PERSONS PROVIDING MENTAL  
13-22 HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES. Information concerning the treatment  
13-23 of a sex offender may be released by a person who:

13-24 (1) is licensed or certified in this state to provide  
13-25 mental health or medical services, including a:

- 13-26 (A) physician;
- 13-27 (B) psychiatrist;
- 13-28 (C) psychologist;
- 13-29 (D) licensed professional counselor;
- 13-30 (E) licensed marriage and family therapist; or
- 13-31 (F) [~~certified~~] social worker; and

13-32 (2) while licensed or certified, provides or provided  
13-33 mental health or medical services for the rehabilitation of sex  
13-34 offenders.

13-35 SECTION 37. Subdivisions (1), (7), and (8), Section  
13-36 505.002, and Subsection (d), Section 505.360, Occupations Code, are  
13-37 repealed.

13-38 SECTION 38. The changes in law made by this Act in the  
13-39 qualifications of members of the Texas State Board of Social Worker  
13-40 Examiners do not affect the entitlement of a member serving on the  
13-41 board immediately before September 1, 2003, to continue to carry  
13-42 out the board's functions for the remainder of the member's term.  
13-43 The changes in law apply only to a member appointed on or after  
13-44 September 1, 2003. This Act does not prohibit a person who is a  
13-45 member of the board on September 1, 2003, from being reappointed to  
13-46 the board if the person has the qualifications required for a member  
13-47 under Section 505.101, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

13-48 SECTION 39. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

13-49 (b) The changes in law made by this Act relating to the  
13-50 licensing of social work associates do not affect the right of a  
13-51 person to obtain, engage in conduct authorized by, or renew a social  
13-52 work associate license until the date the Texas State Board of  
13-53 Social Worker Examiners issues to the person a baccalaureate social  
13-54 worker license and cancels the person's social work associate  
13-55 license as provided by Subsection (c) of this section, and the  
13-56 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

13-57 (c) As soon as practicable on or after September 1, 2004,  
13-58 the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners shall:

13-59 (1) issue a baccalaureate social worker license to  
13-60 each person who holds a social work associate license on September  
13-61 1, 2004; and

13-62 (2) cancel the person's social work associate license.

13-63 (d) A baccalaureate social worker license issued under  
13-64 Subsection (c) of this section expires on the date the social work  
13-65 associate license that it replaces expires.

13-66 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (d) of this section,  
13-67 the holder of a baccalaureate social worker license issued under  
13-68 this section has all the benefits, rights, duties,  
13-69 responsibilities, and obligations of the holder of a baccalaureate

14-1 social worker license issued under Chapter 505, Occupations Code.  
14-2 (f) The Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners may not  
14-3 issue a social work associate license after the date the board  
14-4 begins issuing baccalaureate social worker licenses to social work  
14-5 associates under Subsection (c) of this section. The board shall  
14-6 treat an application for a social work associate license that is  
14-7 pending on that date as an application for a baccalaureate social  
14-8 worker license.

14-9

\* \* \* \* \*