

AN ACT

relating to a person's eligibility to obtain a license in social work and to an exemption from the licensing requirement.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 505.003, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A person who teaches social work at an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education as those terms are defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, is not required to hold a license under this chapter to the extent the person confines the person's activities to teaching and does not otherwise engage in the practice of social work.

SECTION 2. Section 505.353(b), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

(1) a master social worker license if the applicant possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from a graduate program that is accredited by or is in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education;

(2) a baccalaureate social worker license if the applicant possesses a baccalaureate degree in social work from an educational program that is accredited by or is in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education; or

1 (3) a clinical social worker license if the applicant
2 possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from an
3 accredited graduate program approved by the board and meets the
4 qualifications for clinical social work practice as determined by
5 the board under this chapter.

6 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
7 505.353, Occupations Code, apply to a license for which an
8 application is filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A
9 license application filed before the effective date of this Act is
10 governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed,
11 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1797 was passed by the House on May 11, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 2, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1797 on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1797 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor