

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 1797

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing and practice of social work.

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

SECTION 1. Section 505.351, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) A person may not engage in the practice of social work unless the person holds an appropriate license issued under this chapter.

(a-1) A person may not use or cause to be used the title "social worker," "licensed baccalaureate social worker," "licensed master social worker," "licensed clinical social worker," or "licensed social worker," or any combination, variation, or abbreviation of those titles, as a professional or business identification, representation, asset, or means of obtaining a benefit unless the person holds an appropriate license issued under this chapter.

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

1 accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education;

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

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

11 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
12 505.353, Occupations Code, apply to a license for which an
13 application is filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A
14 license application filed before the effective date of this Act is
15 governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed,
16 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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