

# HOUSE BILL NO. 5184

October 19, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Brabec, Rheingans, Price, Byrnes, Wilson, Conlin, Hope, Hood, Dievendorf, Morgan and Edwards and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled "Public health code," by amending sections 18503, 18504, 18506, 18506a, 18509, and 18518 (MCL 333.18503, 333.18504, 333.18506, 333.18506a, 333.18509, and 333.18518), sections 18503 and 18509 as amended by and sections 18504, 18506, 18506a, and 18518 as added by 2004 PA 61, and by adding section 18515a.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

**1**           Sec. 18503. (1) An individual shall not represent that he ~~or~~

1 ~~she~~**the individual** is a social service technician or use a title  
 2 including "social service technician" or an abbreviation of those  
 3 terms or the letters "s.s.t." or similar words ~~which~~**that** would  
 4 indicate that ~~he~~**or she**the individual** is registered under this  
 5 article unless the individual is registered in that capacity under  
 6 this article.**

7 (2) Only a licensed bachelor's social worker shall use the  
 8 title "licensed bachelor's social worker", "social worker", or  
 9 "l.b.s.w.". Only a licensed master's social worker shall use the  
 10 title "licensed master's social worker", "social worker", or  
 11 "l.m.s.w.". **Beginning January 1, 2025, only a licensed clinical**  
 12 **social worker shall use the title "licensed clinical social**  
 13 **worker", "social worker", or "l.c.s.w.".**

14 Sec. 18504. (1) An individual shall not engage in the practice  
 15 of social work at the bachelor's ~~or~~**level, the practice of social**  
 16 **work at the** master's level, **or the practice of social work at the**  
 17 **clinical level,** or use a title described in section 18503, unless  
 18 **the individual is** licensed or otherwise allowed under this part.

19 (2) The department shall ~~issue~~**grant** a license or registration  
 20 under this part for a duration of 3 years.

21 Sec. 18506. An individual who is granted a limited license  
 22 under section 18509(2) to engage in the 2-year postdegree  
 23 experience in the practice of social work at the bachelor's or  
 24 master's level shall practice under the supervision of a licensed  
 25 master's social worker and confine ~~his~~**or her**the individual's**  
 26 practice to an agency, a health facility, an institution, or  
 27 another entity approved by the board. **This section does not apply**  
 28 **beginning January 1, 2025.****

29 Sec. 18506a. (1) This part does not apply to any of the

1 following:

2 (a) An individual who is engaged in a course of study leading  
3 to a degree in social work and participating in an internship or  
4 field placement supervised by a licensed master's social worker.

5 (b) An individual who is not licensed or otherwise authorized  
6 under this part to engage in the practice of social work at the  
7 bachelor's ~~or~~ **level, practice of social work at the** master's level,  
8 **or practice of social work at the clinical level** or is registered  
9 as a social service technician, ~~who~~ **if the individual** donates ~~his~~  
10 ~~or her~~ services, other than psychotherapy services, to a charitable  
11 nonprofit organization ~~so long as the individual and the individual~~  
12 does not ~~hold himself or herself out~~ **represent** to the public ~~as~~  
13 **that the individual is** a social worker licensed, registered, or  
14 otherwise authorized under this part.

15 (c) An **individual who is an** ordained cleric or other religious  
16 practitioner if elements of section ~~18501(f) or (g)~~ **18501(1)(g),**  
17 **(h), or (i)** are incidental to ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** religious  
18 duties performed under the auspices or recognition of a church,  
19 denomination, religious association, or sect that has tax-exempt  
20 status pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code  
21 of 1986, ~~if he or she~~ **26 USC 501, and the individual** does not ~~hold~~  
22 ~~himself or herself out as~~ **represent to the public that the**  
23 **individual is** a social worker licensed, registered, or otherwise  
24 authorized under this part.

25 (d) ~~A~~ **An individual who is a** certified, licensed, or otherwise  
26 statutorily recognized member of any other profession who practices  
27 ~~his or her~~ **the** profession as authorized by law ~~so long as~~ **if** the  
28 individual does not ~~hold himself or herself out~~ **represent** to the  
29 public ~~as~~ **that the individual is** a social worker licensed,

1 registered, or otherwise authorized under this part.

2 (e) An individual who is a participant in a self-help, peer  
 3 counseling, or support services program provided by either a  
 4 charitable or labor organization exempt from taxation under section  
 5 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(5) of the internal revenue code of 1986, ~~so~~  
 6 ~~long as~~ **26 USC 501, if** the individual does not ~~hold himself or~~  
 7 ~~herself out~~ **represent** to the public ~~as that the individual is~~ a  
 8 social worker licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized under  
 9 this part. The exemption for a participant in a program described  
 10 under this subdivision does not otherwise provide an exemption from  
 11 licensure or registration under this part for an employee of the  
 12 charitable or labor organization not otherwise authorized to engage  
 13 in activities or use a title regulated under this part.

14 (f) An individual whose duties may include some or all of the  
 15 activities described in section ~~18501(1)(f) as long as he or she~~  
 16 **18501(1)(g), if the individual** is trained and does not ~~hold himself~~  
 17 ~~or herself out as an~~ **represent to the public that the individual is**  
 18 licensed or registered under this part or does not use a title  
 19 regulated by this part, or both.

20 (2) This part does not prohibit an individual who holds a  
 21 bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree in social work from an  
 22 accredited college or university from using a title including  
 23 "social work" if the individual does not engage in the practice of  
 24 social work at the bachelor's ~~or~~ **level, practice of social work at**  
 25 **the master's level, or practice of social work at the clinical**  
 26 **level.**

27 Sec. 18509. (1) Except as otherwise provided in ~~section~~  
 28 **sections 18515 and 18515a**, an individual granted a license under  
 29 this part shall meet the following requirements:

1 (a) A licensed bachelor's social worker shall have been  
 2 awarded a bachelor's degree in social work from a college or  
 3 university social work program approved by the board and, **except as**  
 4 **otherwise provided in this subdivision**, shall have completed at  
 5 least 2 years of full-time ~~postbachelor's~~ **post-bachelor's** degree  
 6 experience, or the equivalent in part-time hours, in the practice  
 7 of social work at the bachelor's level under the supervision of a  
 8 licensed master's social worker. ~~Until July 1, 2008, the required~~  
 9 ~~experience in the practice of social work at the bachelor's level~~  
 10 ~~shall be performed under the supervision of a person who has been~~  
 11 ~~awarded a master's or doctoral degree in social work from a college~~  
 12 ~~or university school of social work.~~ **Beginning January 1, 2025, both**  
 13 **of the following apply:**

14 (i) **The postdegree experience described in this subdivision is**  
 15 **not required for an individual to be granted a license to engage in**  
 16 **the practice of social work at the bachelor's level.**

17 (ii) **An individual is not required to pass an examination to be**  
 18 **granted a license to engage in the practice of social work at the**  
 19 **bachelor's level.**

20 (b) A licensed master's social worker shall have been awarded  
 21 a master's or doctoral degree in the field of social work from a  
 22 college or university social work program approved by the board  
 23 and, **except as otherwise provided in this subdivision**, shall have  
 24 completed at least 2 years of full-time ~~postmaster's~~ **post-master's**  
 25 or postdoctoral degree experience, or the equivalent in part-time  
 26 hours, in the practice of social work at the master's level under  
 27 the supervision of a licensed master's social worker. ~~Until July 1,~~  
 28 ~~2008, the required experience in the practice of social work at the~~  
 29 ~~master's level shall be performed under the supervision of a person~~

1 ~~who has been awarded a master's or doctoral degree in the field of~~  
2 ~~social work from a college or university school of social work and~~  
3 ~~has engaged in the practice of social work for not less than 2~~  
4 ~~years.~~—In addition to the requirements set forth in this  
5 subdivision, a licensed master's social worker employed by a school  
6 district shall meet the requirements for employment as a school  
7 social worker contained in the revised school code, 1976 PA 451,  
8 MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, and the rules promulgated under that act.

9 **Beginning January 1, 2025, both of the following apply:**

10 (i) **The postdegree experience described in this subdivision is**  
11 **not required for an individual to be granted a license to engage in**  
12 **the practice of social work at the master's level.**

13 (ii) **An individual is not required to pass an examination to be**  
14 **granted a license to engage in the practice of social work at the**  
15 **master's level.**

16 (c) **A licensed clinical social worker shall have been awarded**  
17 **a master's or doctoral degree in the field of social work from a**  
18 **college or university social work program approved by the board and**  
19 **shall have completed at least 2 years of full-time post-master's or**  
20 **postdoctoral degree experience, or the equivalent in part-time**  
21 **hours, in the practice of social work at the master's level under**  
22 **the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. An individual**  
23 **is not required to pass an examination to be granted a license to**  
24 **engage in the practice of social work at the clinical level.**

25 (2) **The board may grant a limited license to engage in the 2-**  
26 **year postdegree experience required under subsection ~~(1)~~ (1) (a) or**  
27 **(b) to an individual who has completed all the educational**  
28 **requirements for licensure as a **licensed** bachelor's social worker**  
29 **or a **licensed** master's social worker. A limited license granted**

1 under this subsection is renewable for not more than 6 years. **This**  
2 subsection does not apply beginning January 1, 2025.

3       Sec. 18515a. (1) The board shall grant a full license as a  
4 licensed bachelor's social worker to an individual who, on January  
5 1, 2025, holds a limited license granted under section 18509(2) to  
6 engage in the postdegree experience in the practice of social work  
7 at the bachelor's level, whether or not the individual has  
8 completed the postdegree experience required for an individual to  
9 be granted a license as a licensed bachelor's social worker under  
10 section 18515(1) (a) .

11       (2) The board shall grant a full license as a licensed  
12 master's social worker to an individual who, on January 1, 2025,  
13 holds a limited license granted under section 18509(2) to engage in  
14 the postdegree experience in the practice of social work at the  
15 master's level, whether or not the individual has completed the  
16 postdegree experience required for an individual to be granted a  
17 license as a licensed master's social worker under section  
18 18515(1) (b) .

19       (3) The board shall grant a full license as a licensed  
20 master's social worker to an individual who, on January 1, 2025,  
21 holds a full license to engage in the practice of social work at  
22 the master's level and who holds a macro designation. As used in  
23 this subsection, "macro designation" means a macro practice  
24 designation granted pursuant to rules promulgated under section  
25 18518(2) to an individual who possesses the education, training,  
26 and experience described in section 18501(1) (i) (ii) .

27       (4) The board shall grant a license as a licensed clinical  
28 social worker to an individual who, on January 1, 2025, holds a  
29 full license to engage in the practice of social work at the

1 master's level and who holds a clinical designation. As used in  
 2 this subsection, "clinical designation" means a clinical practice  
 3 designation granted pursuant to rules promulgated under section  
 4 18518(2) to an individual who possesses the education, training,  
 5 and experience described in section 18501(1) (i) (iii).

6 Sec. 18518. (1) The department shall promulgate rules  
 7 regarding the minimum training requirements for the practice of  
 8 social work at the bachelor's level, ~~and~~ for the practice of social  
 9 work at the master's level, **and for the practice of social work at**  
 10 **the clinical level.**

11 (2) The rules regarding the practice of social work at the  
 12 master's level ~~shall~~**must** distinguish between the training,  
 13 education, and experience requirements relative to the social work  
 14 applications described in section ~~18501(g) (ii) and (iii).~~

15 **18501(1) (i) (ii) and (iii).** The training, education, and experience  
 16 requirements for the applications described in section ~~18501(g) (iii)~~  
 17 ~~shall~~**18501(1) (i) (iii) must** include at least **all of** the following:

18 (a) Possession of a master's degree in social work.

19 (b) Completion of course work in normal human development and  
 20 diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of individuals, couples,  
 21 families, and groups, using a variety of psychotherapeutic methods  
 22 or techniques.

23 (c) ~~Completion~~**Through December 31, 2024, completion** of not  
 24 less than 2 years of supervised post-master's degree clinical  
 25 experience.

26 (3) **The rules regarding the practice of social work at the**  
 27 **clinical level must distinguish between the training, education,**  
 28 **and experience requirements relative to the social work**  
 29 **applications described in section 18501(1) (h) (ii) and (iii).** The



1 training, education, and experience requirements for the  
2 applications described in section 18501(1) (h) (iii) must include at  
3 least all of the following:

4 (a) Possession of a master's degree in social work.

5 (b) Completion of coursework in normal human development and  
6 diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of individuals, couples,  
7 families, and groups, using a variety of psychotherapeutic methods  
8 or techniques.

9 (c) Completion of not less than 4,000 hours of supervised  
10 post-master's degree clinical experience under the supervision of a  
11 licensed clinical social worker.

12 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
13 unless Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5185 (request no.  
14 04019'23) of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into law.