



House of Representatives

File No. 607

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 23)

House Bill No. 5166
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 13, 2026

AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 20-195o of the 2026 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n concerning
5 examinations, on or before October 1, 2015, the commissioner may issue
6 a license without examination, to any master social worker applicant
7 who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that, on or
8 before October 1, 2013, he or she held a master's degree from a social
9 work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or,
10 if educated outside the United States or its territories, completed an
11 educational program deemed equivalent by the council.

12 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 20-195n concerning
13 examinations, the commissioner shall waive the requirement to pass the

14 masters level examination of the Association of Social Work Boards or
15 any other examination prescribed by the commissioner, as described in
16 subsection (b) of section 20-195n until [January 1, 2026] July 1, 2029, at
17 which time such requirement shall be reinstated. Not later than [July
18 1, 2025] January 1, 2029, the commissioner shall notify institutions of
19 higher education offering social work programs about the reinstatement
20 of the examination for all persons graduating after [January 1, 2026] July
21 1, 2029.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	20-195o(b)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill suspends the master social worker license examination requirement upon passage until July 1, 2029, resulting in a time-limited minimal General Fund revenue gain beginning in FY 27. The amount of the revenue gain depends on the number of additional individuals¹ who (due to this change) apply at no cost for their initial license, and then in FY 27 and beyond, annually renew their master social worker license for \$125. Beginning in FY 30, the anticipated increase in initial licensure applications associated with the examination waiver concludes, as well as the associated revenue gain in future fiscal years related to their potential renewal fees.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any change in the license renewal fee.

¹ There are currently 5,608 master social workers licensed by the state.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5166 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill reinstates a requirement that the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner temporarily waive the requirement for a master social worker license applicant to pass the Association of Social Work Board's (ASWB) masters level examination, or other examination the DPH commissioner prescribes. (Current law suspended this requirement between June 7, 2023, and January 1, 2026.)

Under the bill, the commissioner must waive the requirement until July 1, 2029, and then reinstate it. By January 1, 2029, she must also notify higher education institutions that offer social work programs about reinstating the examination requirement.

The bill maintains the examination requirement for licensure by endorsement for applicants who are licensed or certified as a master social worker in good standing in another state or jurisdiction whose licensure requirements are substantially similar to Connecticut's.

Under current law and the bill, applicants for a master social worker license still must have a master's degree from a social work program that is (1) accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); (2) in-state and has candidate status with CSWE during or after the 2024 spring semester and before the 2028 spring semester; or (3) deemed equivalent by CSWE, if educated outside of the U.S. and its territories.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill (File 23) and makes the examination waiver temporary instead of permanent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Social Work Licensure

By law, Connecticut licenses social workers at two levels: master social worker and clinical social worker. Applicants for a clinical social worker license must (1) have a doctorate or master’s degree from a CSWE-accredited program or, if educated outside of the U.S. and its territories, a program deemed equivalent by CSWE; (2) complete 3,000 hours post-master’s social work experience with at least 100 hours supervised by a licensed clinical social worker or certified independent social worker; and (3) pass the ASWB’s clinical level examination.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 6 (03/02/2026)