
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)