

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1168

Short Title: Title Protection/Social Workers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Glazier, Dickson, England, Wainwright (Primary Sponsors);
Harrison, Insko, Lucas, Mackey, and Wray.

Referred to: State Government/State Personnel, if favorable, Judiciary II.

April 8, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH TITLE PROTECTION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND
3 AUTHORIZE A REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF STATE PERSONNEL SOCIAL WORK
4 SERIES EVERY FOUR YEARS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90B-3(8) reads as rewritten:

7 "The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

8 ...

9 (8) Social Worker. – A person ~~engaging in the practice of social work who is~~
10 ~~not certified or licensed under this Chapter as a Certified Social Worker,~~
11 ~~Certified Master Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, or~~
12 ~~Certified Social Work Manager.~~ certified, licensed, or provisionally licensed
13 by this Chapter or otherwise exempt under G.S. 90B-10."

14 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90B-10 is amended by adding the following new subsection to
15 read:

16 "(c) Except as provided for a person engaging in clinical social work practice under this
17 Chapter, the following may use the title 'Social Worker':

18 (1) Any individual practicing social work under this Chapter who is employed
19 by an agency of a local or State governmental entity, who is in a position
20 holding the title of 'Social Worker' or any variation of the name, and whose
21 position title is derived from the Office of State Personnel Social Work
22 Series.

23 (2) Any individual who meets the academic requirements for title protection
24 under G.S. 90B-16."

25 **SECTION 3.** Chapter 90B of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
26 following new section to read:

27 "**§ 90B-16. Title protection.**

28 (a) An individual who (i) is not certified, licensed, or provisionally licensed by this
29 Chapter as a social worker, (ii) does not hold a bachelor's or master's degree in social work
30 from a college or university having a social work program accredited or admitted to candidacy
31 for accreditation by the Council of Social Work Education, or (iii) has not received a doctorate
32 in social work, shall not use the title 'Social Worker' or any variation of the title.

33 (b) The Board is authorized to enforce title protection pursuant to this section in
34 accordance with G.S. 90B-13.

35 (c) The Board is authorized to adopt rules to implement this section."



1 **SECTION 4.** Review of State Personnel Social Work Series. – The Office of State
2 Personnel shall conduct a review of the State Personnel Social Work Series every four years.
3 The review shall consist of an examination of the job title, duties, salary structure, supervision,
4 and requirements of classifications within the State Personnel Social Work Series. The
5 following entities shall participate in the review:

- 6 (1) The North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services.
- 7 (2) The National Association of Social Workers – North Carolina Chapter.
- 8 (3) The North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board.
- 9 (4) The North Carolina Society of Clinical Social Work.
- 10 (5) The North Carolina Society of Social Work Leadership in Healthcare.
- 11 (6) The Public Health Social Work Continuing Education and Training
12 Advisory Committee.
- 13 (7) The North Carolina School Social Work Association.
- 14 (8) A representative of a school of social work bachelor's degree program, as
15 determined by the National Association of Social Workers – North Carolina
16 Chapter Board of Directors.
- 17 (9) A representative of a school of social work master's degree program, as
18 determined by the National Association of Social Workers – North Carolina
19 Chapter Board of Directors.
- 20 (10) A representative from the Office of State Personnel.

21 After conducting the review, the Office of State Personnel shall submit a report to the
22 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the
23 Senate, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by January 15 of
24 the year following the review.

25 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.