

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 90

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TOPIC: Social Work Licensing

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Overview

This act amends the licensing requirements for social workers, graduate social workers, independent social workers, and independent clinical social workers by establishing an exemption from the examination requirement for certain foreign-born persons for whom English is a second language. It also establishes an additional set of criteria to allow certain foreign-born persons for whom English is a second language, to obtain a temporary permit without passing an examination.

Section

- 1 **Social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 3. Allows applicants who were born in a foreign country, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination at least once since January 1, 2000, and for whom English is a second language, to be eligible for licensure as a social worker, as long as the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure and provides to the board letters of recommendation and experience ratings from two licensed social workers and a professor from the applicant's social work program. These licensing criteria expire August 1, 2005.
- 2 **Graduate social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 4. Allows applicants who were born in a foreign country, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination at least once since January 1, 2000, and for whom English is a second language, to be eligible for licensure as a graduate social worker, as long as the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure and provides to the board letters of recommendation and experience ratings from two licensed social workers and a professor from the applicant's social work program. These licensing criteria expire August 1, 2005.
- 3 **Independent social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 5. Allows applicants who were born in a foreign country, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination at least once since January 1, 2000, and for whom English is a second language, to be eligible for licensure as an independent social worker, as long as the applicant meets all other requirements for

licensure and provides to the board letters of recommendation and experience ratings from two licensed social workers and a professor from the applicant's social work program. These licensing criteria expire August 1, 2005.

- 4 **Independent clinical social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 6. Allows applicants who were born in a foreign country, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination at least once since January 1, 2000, and for whom English is a second language, to be eligible for licensure as an independent clinical social worker, as long as the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure and provides to the board letters of recommendation and experience ratings from two licensed social workers and a professor from the applicant's social work program. These licensing criteria expire August 1, 2005.
- 5 **Temporary permit.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 7. Allows applicants who were born in a foreign country, who have taken and failed the licensure examination, and for whom English is a second language, to obtain a temporary permit to practice social work as long as the applicant's social work program submits an affidavit verifying the applicant's completion of the degree requirements. Requires that the affidavit be submitted within 15 days of completion of the degree requirements and specifies that the temporary permit is valid for six months or until a license is issued, whichever comes first, and is non-renewable. Requires an applicant with a temporary permit to practice primarily with members of the ethnic group of which the applicant is a member. These temporary permit criteria expire August 1, 2005.
- 6 **Study of the social worker license examination.** Requires the board of social work to obtain funding from federal or private sources and commission an independent study to determine the extent to which the failure rate for the social work licensure examination by foreign-born applicants is greater than failure rates of other applicants, and underlying causes of such disparities. Requires consultation with specified organizations and other Minnesota health-related licensing boards. If funding for the study is received, requires the board to report to the legislature on the results of the study and recommendations for possible remedies by September 1, 2003.