

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1067  
**Version:** First Engrossment  
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**Subject:** Social Work Licensing  
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**DATE:** March 26, 2001

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### Overview

This bill 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 refugees and immigrants, for whom English is a second language. It also establishes an additional set of criteria to allow certain refugees and immigrants 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 are refugees or immigrants to the United States, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination, 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, provides to the board letters of recommendation and experience ratings from two licensed social workers and a professor, and will practice primarily with the ethnic group of which the applicant is a member.
- 2 **Graduate social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 4. Allows applicants who are refugees or immigrants to the United States, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination, 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, provides to the board letters of recommendation and experience ratings from two licensed social workers and a professor, and will practice primarily with the ethnic group of which the applicant is a member.
- 3 **Independent social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 5. Allows applicants who are refugees or immigrants to the United States, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination, 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 will practice primarily with members of the ethnic group of which the applicant is a

member.

- 4 **Independent clinical social worker.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 6. Allows applicants who are refugees or immigrants to the United States, who have taken and failed the social work licensure examination, 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 will practice primarily with members of the ethnic group of which the applicant is a member.
- 5 **Temporary permit.** Amends § 148B.21, subd. 7. Allows applicants who are refugees or immigrants to the United States, 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.