The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

## DIGEST

SB 389 Original

## 2020 Regular Session

Bouie

Present law contains no specific definition of a "social worker".

<u>Proposed law</u> defines "social worker" as one who has successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate level academic program in social work.

<u>Present law</u> provides that five years of experience is necessary for any RSW, LMSW, or LCSW to serve on the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Proposed law reduces the experience necessary to serve on the board to three years.

<u>Present law</u> requires that one beginning practice as a social worker shall submit an application for credentials within 90 days of commencing practice.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires that all components of application for licensure, certification, or registration shall be completed within 90 days of commencing practice.

<u>Present law</u> requires the board, at each meeting, to update the listing of licensed, certified, and registered social workers and to make that list available to the public. <u>Proposed law</u> eliminates that requirement.

<u>Present law</u> requires 38 to 40 hours of clinical practice, over a minimum of two years and a maximum of four years for an LCSW.

<u>Proposed law</u> reduces the number of clinical hours required for an LCSW to 3000 over the same timeframe, but the extension beyond four years is at the discretion of the board.

<u>Present law</u> extends reciprocity regarding licensure, certification, and registration of social workers to those from any state, territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia who grants reciprocity to those with Louisiana credentials.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires that those from other jurisdictions seeking Louisiana credentials shall pass the board exam on the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

<u>Proposed law</u> removes language regarding mutual reciprocity of licensure in a particular state, territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia.

<u>Proposed law</u> sets requirements for reinstatement of licenses and registration which have lapsed for more than six months and less than 60 months, including passing the board exam and a required

number of continuing education hours with ethics training included for all. LCSW, are required to include at least 10 hours of clinical content in their required hours.

<u>Proposed law</u> sets requirements for reinstatement of licenses and registration which have lapsed for more than 60 months, including passing the board exam and a required number of continuing education hours with ethics training included for all. LCSWs are required to include at least 20 hours of clinical content in their required hours.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds language regarding licenses which have lapsed for at least six months, but less than five years, and for those whose licenses have lapsed for more than five years.

<u>Proposed law</u> lists continuing education hours, including those with clinical content and ethics hours, for a LCSW whose license has lapsed between six months and five years and for those whose license has lapsed for more than five years.

<u>Proposed law</u> specifically states that no one shall hold himself out to be a social worker unless they shall have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate level academic social work program.

<u>Proposed law</u> restates the provision for disciplinary action by the board regarding incapacity and impairment due to the use of drugs or intoxicating beverages which prevents the person from practicing social work with reasonable skill, competence, and safety to the public.

<u>Proposed law</u> allows the board to issue cease and desist orders in certain circumstances and in compliance with the provisions of the APA.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds the prohibition of discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender expression, or differing abilities.

Effective August 1, 2020.

(Amends R.S. 37:2704(A) (1), (2), and (3), 2705(A) and (D), 2706(B), 2708(A)(3), 2709(B), 2712 (1)(b), 2713, 2714(B) and (C), 2716(B), 2717(A)(2) and (D), 2719, 2724(B); adds R.S. 37:2703(19), 2712(3), 2714(F) and (G), 2715(F), 2717(A)(13), (G) and (H); repeals R.S. 37:2712(1)(c))