

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 865

BY REPRESENTATIVE MYERS

SOCIAL WORKER: Provides relative to virtual social work supervision

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2703(7) and (17) and 2707(B) and to enact R.S. 37:2703(19)  
3 and (20), relative to the practice of social work; to provide for definitions; to allow  
4 remote supervision via telesupervision; to include provisions for virtual social work  
5 supervision; to require the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners to  
6 establish rules and regulations for telesupervision; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 37:2703(7) and (17) and 2707(B) are hereby amended and reenacted  
9 and R.S. 37:2703(19) and (20) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §2703. Definitions

11 As used in this Chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, and  
12 except as otherwise expressly provided:

13 \* \* \*

14 (7) "Clinical supervision" means an interactional professional relationship  
15 between a licensed clinical social worker and a licensed master's social worker that  
16 provides evaluation and direction over the supervisee's practice of clinical social  
17 work and promotes continued development of the licensed master's social worker's  
18 knowledge, skills, and abilities to engage in the practice of clinical social work in an  
19 ethical and competent manner. Supervision for meeting the requirements of  
20 licensure, as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), ~~must~~ shall be provided by a

1 licensed clinical social worker who is also a board-approved clinical supervisor  
 2 (BACS). Supervision between a licensed clinical social worker and a licensed  
 3 master's social worker may be conducted in-person or remotely through  
 4 telesupervision. Telesupervision utilizes secure video conferencing platforms to  
 5 adhere to the same standards and guidelines as in-person supervision, ensuring  
 6 regular contact, case review, and ongoing professional development. The board shall  
 7 establish rules and regulations regarding the specific requirements and parameters  
 8 for telesupervision, including technology standards, documentation, and  
 9 confidentiality measures.

\* \* \*

11 (17) "Supervision" means the professional relationship between a supervisor  
 12 and a supervisee that provides guidance and evaluation of the services provided by  
 13 the supervisee. Supervision between a licensed clinical social worker and a licensed  
 14 master's social worker may be conducted in-person or remotely through  
 15 telesupervision. Telesupervision utilizes secure video conferencing platforms to  
 16 adhere to the same standards and guidelines as in-person supervision, ensuring  
 17 regular contact, case review, and ongoing professional development. The board shall  
 18 establish rules and regulations regarding the specific requirements and parameters  
 19 for telesupervision, including technology standards, documentation, and  
 20 confidentiality measures.

\* \* \*

22 (19) "In-person supervision" means clinical supervision conducted through  
 23 real time, face-to-face meetings of the supervisee and supervisor in the same physical  
 24 location.

25 (20) "Telesupervision" means clinical supervision conducted through the use  
 26 of real time, face-to-face synchronous interactive conferencing between the  
 27 supervisee and supervisor through electronic, visual, and audio means.

\* \* \*

1 §2707. Qualifications; licensed master's social worker

2 \* \* \*

3 B. An individual licensed as a licensed master's social worker may engage  
 4 in advanced social work practice based on the application of social work theory,  
 5 knowledge, ethics, and methods to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or  
 6 biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations,  
 7 and communities. The licensed master's social worker's practice requires the  
 8 application of specialized knowledge and advanced practice skills which include  
 9 prevention or intervention, or both, service or treatment planning and evaluation,  
 10 case management, information and referral, counseling, employee assistance  
 11 services, addiction services, advocacy, teaching, research, supervision, consultation,  
 12 community organization, and the development, implementation, and administration  
 13 of policies, programs, and activities. A social worker licensed at the licensed  
 14 master's social worker level may practice clinical social work and psychotherapy  
 15 within an agency under the supervision, in-person or virtually, of a licensed clinical  
 16 social worker. A licensed master's social worker may work as an employee only in  
 17 an agency setting. Notwithstanding the definition of "agency" as defined in R.S.  
 18 37:2703(1) or the requirement for employment in an agency setting provided in this  
 19 Subsection, a licensed master's social worker shall be permitted to provide social  
 20 work services on behalf of a federal, state, or local governmental agency on a  
 21 contractual basis.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 865 Original                                  2024 Regular Session                                  Myers

**Abstract:** Allows supervision for certain social workers to be conducted in-person or remotely via telesupervision.

Present law defines "clinical supervision" and "supervision", along with other terms relative to social work.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

Proposed law adds definitions for "in-person supervision" and "telesupervision". Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law retains present law provisions and further provides that supervision between a licensed clinical social worker and a licensed master's social worker may be conducted in-person or remotely via telesupervision.

Proposed law requires telesupervision to adhere to the same standards and guidelines as in-person supervision, to ensure regular contact, case review, and ongoing professional development.

Proposed law requires the La. State Bd. of Social Work Examiners to establish rules and regulations regarding the requirements and parameters for telesupervision.

Present law allows a social worker licensed at the licensed master's social worker level to practice clinical social work and psychotherapy within an agency under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker.

Proposed law further provides that the supervision required in present law may be conducted in-person or virtually.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 37:2703(7) and (17) and 2707(B); Adds R.S. 37:2703(19) and (20))