

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 24

BY SENATOR MILLS

COUNSELING/GUIDANCE. Provides relative to social work practice. (8/1/18)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 37:2703 and (15)(b) and to enact
3 R.S. 37:2703(B), relative to social work practice; to provide for an exception from
4 licensure; to provide for technical corrections; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 37:2703 and (15)(b) are hereby
7 amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:2703(B) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2703. Definitions

9 A. As used in this Chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, and
10 except as otherwise expressly provided:

11 * * *

12 (15)(a)

13 * * *

14 (b) ~~Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any person~~
15 ~~licensed, certified, provisionally certified, or registered hereunder to prescribe, either~~
16 ~~orally or in writing, distribute, dispense, or administer any medications. Nothing in~~
17 ~~this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any social worker licensed, certified,~~

1 ~~provisionally certified, or registered under this Chapter to administer or interpret~~
2 ~~psychological tests, or to engage in the practice of psychology, as defined by the~~
3 ~~provisions of R.S. 37:2352(5) or to engage in the practice of medicine, as defined by~~
4 ~~the provisions of R.S. 37:1262. Notwithstanding any provisions of R.S. 37:2352(5),~~
5 ~~persons covered by this Chapter may, based upon scope of practice, administer, use,~~
6 ~~or interpret tests of language, education and achievement, adaptive behavioral tests,~~
7 ~~and symptom screening checklists instruments, as well as tests of abilities, interests,~~
8 ~~and aptitudes. Social work practice shall not include social work education~~
9 ~~administered by a faculty member at an accredited institution of higher~~
10 ~~education. A person who serves as a faculty member in a social work program~~
11 ~~at an institution of higher education is not required to hold a license under this~~
12 ~~Chapter, to the extent that the faculty member's activities are limited to~~
13 ~~teaching, scholarship, service, and research.~~

14 * * *

15 B. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any person
16 licensed, certified, provisionally certified, or registered hereunder to prescribe,
17 either orally or in writing, distribute, dispense, or administer any medications.
18 Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize any social worker
19 licensed, certified, provisionally certified, or registered under this Chapter to
20 administer or interpret psychological tests, or to engage in the practice of
21 psychology, as defined by the provisions of R.S. 37:2352(5) or to engage in the
22 practice of medicine, as defined by the provisions of R.S. 37:1262.
23 Notwithstanding any provisions of R.S. 37:2352(5), persons covered by this
24 Chapter may, based upon scope of practice, administer, use, or interpret tests
25 of language, education and achievement, adaptive behavioral tests, and
26 symptom screening checklists instruments, as well as tests of abilities, interests,
27 and aptitudes.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

DIGEST

SB 24 Original 2018 Regular Session Mills

Present law provides for a definition of social work practice. Proposed law provides for an exemption for social workers serving as a faculty member at an accredited institution of higher education.

Present law provides that social workers cannot prescribe, dispense, or administer medications, administer or interpret psychological tests, or engage in the practice of psychology or medicine. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that social workers may administer, use, or interpret tests of language, education and achievement, adaptive behavioral tests, and symptom screening checklists instruments, as well as tests of abilities, interests, and aptitudes. Proposed law retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 37:2703(intro para) and (15)(b); adds R.S. 37:2703(B))