



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## State Board of Clinical Social Workers

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## SB 177 – B FACT SHEET

### EXPANDED TITLE ACT AND LIMITED PRACTICE ACT FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

#### OVERVIEW:

- Expands sanction authority by the Board of Clinical Social Workers by allowing the Board to maintain jurisdiction over revoked licensees.
- Increases civil penalty to max. \$3000 per violation (\$5,000 title act/unlicensed practice violations).
- Permits voluntary registration for non-clinical Bachelor-level Social Workers (RBSWs).
- Permits voluntary licensure for non-clinical Masters-level social workers (LMSWs).
- Authorizes application fees and licensure/registration renewal fees for RBSWs and LMSWs.
- Mandates licensure for those practicing clinical social work only, effective January 1, 2011.
- Protects the title "social worker" by limiting its use to those regulated by the Board.
- Changes the name of the Board to "Board of Licensed Social Workers."

SB 177 supplements the Board's existing licensure program for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs, who all are all Masters-level) and Clinical Social Work Associates (CSWAs – those with MSW degrees who are working under supervision in preparation for LCSW licensure).

#### PURPOSE:

- Protect Oregonians from those whose licenses have been revoked by the Board.
- Protect the public by moving to mandated licensure for clinical social work, expanding title protection, and allowing the Board on a voluntary basis to regulate non-clinical social work.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregonians frequently utilize the services of a social work professional in times of crisis or distress. They need to be able to trust that the person providing assistance has the basic education and expertise to meet their needs and will support them in an ethical manner. Currently, the State only regulates those who use the title of Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Clinical Social Work Associate (CSWA). Oregon is one of only 7 states in the nation that do not protect the practice of social work. This means a license is only required for those who seek to use one of the protected titles.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This bill allows on a voluntary basis those non-clinical social workers at the Bachelor's and Master's level who are not under the jurisdiction of the Board now, and who want the regulatory oversight, to obtain it. In addition, the bill prohibits the practice of clinical social work after license revocation and mandates licensure for those who engage in the practice of clinical social work. Clergy and those who hold other appropriate licenses or certifications are exempted from the licensure requirement, including Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CADCs), Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs) and Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHAAs). The licensure and certification exemptions are premised on license and certification holders acting within the scope of their license and certification.

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