



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

### 2023 and 2024

### HB2365

Introduced 2/14/2023, by Rep. Lindsey LaPointe

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 20/3	from Ch. 111, par. 6353
225 ILCS 20/5	from Ch. 111, par. 6355
225 ILCS 20/8.2 new	
225 ILCS 20/8.3 new	
225 ILCS 20/9	from Ch. 111, par. 6359

Amends the Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act. Provides that an applicant may use an examination alternative to allow the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to ascertain the qualifications and fitness of candidates for a license to engage in the independent practice of clinical social work. Provides that the examination alternative shall consist of at least 2 years of supervised professional experience subsequent to obtaining the degree as established by rule. Provides that the examination alternative supervised professional experience shall be in addition to any other supervised clinical professional experience required for licensure. Provides that beginning January 1, 2026, an applicant acquiring the examination alternative supervised professional experience must be a licensed social worker or licensed in this State for the practice of school social work prior to acquiring the supervised professional experience. Provides that the Department shall require that a qualified licensed clinical social work supervisor to complete at least 6 hours of continuing education training. Makes corresponding changes. Effective immediately.

LRB103 30361 AMQ 56791 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Clinical Social Work and Social Work  
5 Practice Act is amended by changing Sections 3, 5, and 9 and by  
6 adding Section 8.2 and 8.3 as follows:

7 (225 ILCS 20/3) (from Ch. 111, par. 6353)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

9 Sec. 3. Definitions. The following words and phrases shall  
10 have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 1. "Department" means the Department of Financial and  
13 Professional Regulation.

14 2. "Secretary" means the Secretary of Financial and  
15 Professional Regulation.

16 3. "Board" means the Social Work Examining and  
17 Disciplinary Board.

18 4. "Licensed Clinical Social Worker" means a person who  
19 holds a license authorizing the independent practice of  
20 clinical social work in Illinois under the auspices of an  
21 employer or in private practice or under the auspices of  
22 public human service agencies or private, nonprofit agencies  
23 providing publicly sponsored human services.

1           5. "Clinical social work practice" means the providing of  
2 mental health services for the evaluation, treatment, and  
3 prevention of mental and emotional disorders in individuals,  
4 families, and groups based on knowledge and theory of  
5 professionally accepted theoretical structures, including, but  
6 not limited to, psychosocial development, behavior,  
7 psychopathology, unconscious motivation, interpersonal  
8 relationships, and environmental stress.

9           6. "Treatment procedures" means among other things,  
10 individual, marital, family, and group psychotherapy.

11           7. "Independent practice of clinical social work" means  
12 the application of clinical social work knowledge and skills  
13 by a licensed clinical social worker who regulates and is  
14 responsible for her or his own practice or treatment  
15 procedures.

16           8. "License" means that which is required to practice  
17 clinical social work or social work under this Act, the  
18 qualifications for which include specific education,  
19 acceptable experience, and examination requirements.

20           9. "Licensed social worker" means a person who holds a  
21 license authorizing the practice of social work, which  
22 includes social services to individuals, groups or communities  
23 in any one or more of the fields of social casework, social  
24 group work, community organization for social welfare, social  
25 work research, social welfare administration, or social work  
26 education. Social casework and social group work may also

1 include clinical social work, as long as it is not conducted in  
2 an independent practice, as defined in this Section.

3 10. "Address of record" means the address recorded by the  
4 Department in the applicant's application file or the  
5 licensee's license file, as maintained by the Department's  
6 licensure maintenance unit.

7 11. "Email address of record" means the designated email  
8 address recorded by the Department in the applicant's  
9 application file or the licensee's license file, as maintained  
10 by the Department's licensure maintenance unit.

11 12. "Qualified licensed clinical social work supervisor"  
12 means a licensed clinical social worker who has completed at  
13 least 6 hours of clinical supervision training.

14 (Source: P.A. 100-201, eff. 8-18-17; 100-414, eff. 8-25-17.)

15 (225 ILCS 20/5) (from Ch. 111, par. 6355)

16 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

17 Sec. 5. Powers and duties of the Department. Subject to  
18 the provisions of this Act, the Department shall exercise the  
19 following functions, powers, and duties:

20 (1) Conduct or authorize examinations or examination  
21 alternatives to ascertain the qualifications and fitness  
22 of candidates for a license to engage in the independent  
23 practice of clinical social work, pass upon the  
24 qualifications of applicants for licenses, and issue  
25 licenses to those who are found to be fit and qualified.

1           (2) Adopt rules required for the administration and  
2 enforcement of this Act.

3           (3) Adopt rules for determining approved undergraduate  
4 and graduate social work degree programs and prepare and  
5 maintain a list of colleges and universities offering such  
6 approved programs whose graduates, if they otherwise meet  
7 the requirements of this Act, are eligible to apply for a  
8 license.

9           (4) Prescribe forms to be issued for the  
10 administration and enforcement of this Act consistent with  
11 and reflecting the requirements of this Act and rules  
12 adopted pursuant to this Act.

13           (5) Conduct investigations related to possible  
14 violations of this Act.

15           (6) Maintain rosters of the names and addresses of all  
16 persons who hold valid licenses under this Act. These  
17 rosters shall be available upon written request and  
18 payment of the required fee.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-326, eff. 1-1-22.)

20 (225 ILCS 20/8.2 new)

21 Sec. 8.2. Examination alternative.

22 (a) An applicant may use an examination alternative to  
23 allow the Department to ascertain the qualifications and  
24 fitness of candidates for a license to engage in the  
25 independent practice of clinical social work.

1       (b) The examination alternative shall consist of at least  
2       2 years of supervised professional experience subsequent to  
3       obtaining the degree as established by rule. If no supervision  
4       by a licensed clinical social worker is available, then  
5       supervised professional experience may include supervision by  
6       other appropriate disciplines as defined by rule.

7       (c) The examination alternative supervised professional  
8       experience shall be in addition to any other supervised  
9       clinical professional experience required for licensure.

10       (d) Beginning January 1, 2026, an applicant acquiring the  
11       examination alternative supervised professional experience  
12       must be a licensed social worker or licensed in this State for  
13       the practice of school social work prior to acquiring the  
14       supervised professional experience.

15       (225 ILCS 20/8.3 new)

16       Sec. 8.3. Qualified licensed clinical social work  
17       supervisor. The Department shall require a qualified licensed  
18       clinical social work supervisor to complete at least 6 hours  
19       of continuing education training. The Department may adopt any  
20       rules necessary to implement this Section.

21       (225 ILCS 20/9) (from Ch. 111, par. 6359)

22       (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028)

23       Sec. 9. Qualifications for clinical social worker license.  
24       A person shall be qualified to be licensed as a clinical social

1 worker if that person:

2 (1) has applied in writing on the prescribed form;

3 (2) is of good moral character. In determining good  
4 moral character, the Department may take into  
5 consideration whether the applicant was engaged in conduct  
6 or actions that would constitute grounds for discipline  
7 under this Act;

8 (3) (a) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the  
9 Department that subsequent to securing a master's degree  
10 in social work from an approved program the applicant has  
11 successfully completed at least 3,000 hours of  
12 satisfactory, supervised clinical professional experience  
13 from a qualified licensed clinical social work supervisor;  
14 or

15 (b) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department  
16 that such applicant has received a doctor's degree in  
17 social work from an approved program and has completed at  
18 least 2,000 hours of satisfactory, supervised clinical  
19 professional experience subsequent to the degree;

20 (4) has passed the examination for the practice of  
21 clinical social work as authorized by the Department or  
22 has completed the examination alternative set forth in  
23 Section 8.2; and

24 (5) has paid the required fees.

25 (Source: P.A. 100-414, eff. 8-25-17.)

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.