

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5435

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Theresa Mah

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act. In provisions concerning the qualifications for a clinical social worker license, provides that a person shall be qualified to be a licensed clinical social worker if that person, among other things, (i) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation that, subsequent to securing a master's degree in social work from an approved program and obtaining a social worker license or temporarily practicing pending the issuance of a social worker license if the license was ultimately issued (rather than subsequent to only securing a master's degree), the applicant has successfully completed at least 3,000 hours of satisfactory, supervised clinical professional experience; or (ii) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department that such applicant has received a doctor's degree in social work from an approved program and has, subsequent to receiving the degree, completed at least 2,000 hours of satisfactory, supervised clinical professional experience after obtaining a social worker license or during temporary practice pending the issuance of a social worker license if the license was ultimately issued (rather than subsequent to only securing a master's degree). Provides that any hours of supervised clinical professional experience completed before the effective date of the amendatory Act may be counted toward the required hours for qualification for a clinical social worker license if the hours were completed subsequent to securing an applicable graduate degree and the completed hours would have qualified towards licensure under the law in effect at the time the hours were earned. In provisions concerning qualifications for a social worker license, provides that a person shall be qualified to be a licensed social worker if that person, among other things, has a degree in social work from an undergraduate program approved by the Department and has successfully completed at least 3,000 hours (rather than 3 years) of supervised professional experience subsequent to obtaining the degree within a period of no more than 4 years. Provides that the Department may grant a waiver for or an extension of the 4-year time period if an applicant demonstrates that there is good cause to grant the waiver or extension. Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 19710 AAS 33159 b

A BILL FOR

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 9 and 9A as
6 follows:

7 (225 ILCS 20/9) (from Ch. 111, par. 6359)

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

9 Sec. 9. Qualifications for clinical social worker license.

10 A person shall be qualified to be licensed as a clinical social
11 worker if that person:

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

13 (2) has not engaged in conduct or actions that would
14 constitute grounds for discipline under this Act;

15 (3) (a) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the
16 Department that, subsequent to securing a master's degree
17 in social work from an approved program and obtaining a
18 social worker license under Section 9A or temporarily
19 practicing pending the issuance of a social worker license
20 under Section 9B if the license was ultimately issued, the
21 applicant has successfully completed at least 3,000 hours
22 of satisfactory, supervised clinical professional
23 experience; or

1 (b) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department
2 that such applicant has received a doctor's degree in
3 social work from an approved program and has, subsequent
4 to receiving the degree, completed at least 2,000 hours of
5 satisfactory, supervised clinical professional experience
6 after obtaining a social worker license under Section 9A
7 or during temporary practice pending the issuance of a
8 social worker license under Section 9B if the license was
9 ultimately issued ~~subsequent to the degree;~~

10 (4) has passed the examination for the practice of
11 clinical social work as authorized by the Department or
12 has completed the examination alternative set forth in
13 Section 8.2; and

14 (5) has paid the required fees.

15 Notwithstanding paragraph (3), any hours of supervised
16 clinical professional experience completed before the
17 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General
18 Assembly may be counted toward the required hours for
19 qualification under this Section if the hours were completed
20 subsequent to securing an applicable graduate degree and the
21 completed hours would have qualified towards licensure under
22 the law in effect at the time the hours were earned.

23 (Source: P.A. 103-433, eff. 1-1-24; 104-178, eff. 1-1-26.)

24 (225 ILCS 20/9A) (from Ch. 111, par. 6359A)

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

1 Sec. 9A. Qualifications for license as licensed social
2 worker. A person shall be qualified to be licensed as a
3 licensed social worker if that person:

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

5 (2) has not engaged in conduct or actions that would
6 constitute grounds for discipline under this Act;

7 (3) (a) has a degree from a graduate program of social
8 work approved by the Department; or

9 (b) has a degree in social work from an undergraduate
10 program approved by the Department and has successfully
11 completed at least 3,000 hours ~~3 years~~ of supervised
12 professional experience subsequent to obtaining the degree
13 within a period of no more than 4 years, as established by
14 rule. If no supervision by a licensed social worker or a
15 licensed clinical social worker is available, then
16 supervised professional experience may include supervision
17 by other appropriate disciplines as defined by rule;

18 (4) (blank); and

19 (5) has paid the required fees.

20 The Department may grant a waiver for or an extension of
21 the 4-year time period under this Section if an applicant
22 demonstrates that there is good cause, as determined by rule,
23 to grant the waiver or extension.

24 An individual who is in the process of completing the
25 hours of supervised professional experience under subparagraph
26 (b) of paragraph (3) shall be subject to oversight by the

1 Department solely for the purpose of determining the
2 individual's eligibility for licensure and the eligibility of
3 the completed hours for the supervised professional experience
4 requirement.

5 The Department may, by rule:

6 (1) establish standards for supervision,
7 documentation, and verification of any supervised
8 professional experience;

9 (2) deny or invalidate any hours of supervised
10 professional experience obtained in violation of this Act
11 or Department rules; and

12 (3) deny an application for licensure based on conduct
13 that occurred during the time period in which the
14 applicant was completing the hours of supervised
15 professional experience if the conduct would have
16 constituted grounds for discipline under this Act had the
17 individual been licensed at the time.

18 (Source: P.A. 104-178, eff. 1-1-26.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
20 1, 2027.

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 225 ILCS 20/9 from Ch. 111, par. 6359

4 225 ILCS 20/9A from Ch. 111, par. 6359A