

**Senate Bill No. 556**

(By Senators M. Hall and Ferns)

[Introduced February 23, 2015; referred to the Committee on Government Organization.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §30-30-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requirements for provisional social worker licenses.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §30-30-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 30. SOCIAL WORKERS.**

**§30-30-16. Provisional License to practice as a social worker.**

(a) To be eligible for a provisional license to practice as a social worker, the applicant must:

- (1) Submit an application to the board;
- (2) Be at least eighteen years of age;
- (3) Be of good moral character;
- (4) Have a baccalaureate degree; ~~in a related field, as provided by legislative rule;~~
- (5) Have obtained regular supervised employment, or the reasonable promise of regular

1 supervised employment contingent upon receiving a provisional license, in a critical social work  
2 workforce shortage position, area or setting requiring a social work license: *Provided*, That such  
3 employment ~~shall~~ may not be as an independent practitioner, contracted employee, sole proprietor,  
4 consultant, or other nonregular employment;

5 (6) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board with  
6 three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

7 (7) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article one-  
8 a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process,  
9 which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an acknowledged  
10 substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program may be considered;

11 (8) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the  
12 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

13 (9) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense for  
14 which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains  
15 unreversed; and

16 (10) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

17 (b) A provisionally licensed social worker may become a licensed social worker, by  
18 completing the following:

19 (1) Be continuously employed for four years as a social worker and supervised. The board  
20 shall promulgate by legislative rule the supervision requirements;

21 ~~(2) Complete twelve credit hours of core social work study from a program accredited by the~~

- 1 ~~council on social work education, as defined by legislative rule, within the four-year provisional~~  
2 ~~license period;~~
- 3       ~~(3)~~(2) Complete continuing education as required by legislative rule; and  
4       ~~(4)~~(3) Pass an examination approved by the board.
- 5       (c) A provisionally licensed social worker or a person previously licensed as a provisionally  
6 licensed social worker may not reapply for licensure through this process for a period of one year  
7 from the time the process set forth in this section is stopped, if the process is not completed.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify the exemptions provided by statute for Social Work Licensing.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.