

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2018 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 604**

BY SENATOR DRENNAN

[Introduced February 19, 2018; Referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources;  
and then to the Committee on Government  
Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §30-30-22a, relating to temporary permits to perform social work functions  
 3 within community mental health centers; establishing qualifications for temporary permits;  
 4 and providing for revocation of permit.

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

**ARTICLE 30. SOCIAL WORKERS.**

**30-30-22a. Temporary permits to work in community mental health centers.**

1 (a) Community mental health centers in West Virginia are experiencing a shortage of  
 2 qualified social workers, making it increasingly difficult for the state to provide the best care  
 3 possible to individuals in need of those services.

4 (b) The board may issue a temporary permit, for a period not to exceed two years, to an  
 5 applicant to practice social work functions in a community mental health center. To qualify for a  
 6 permit, the applicant must be currently licensed as one of the following:

7 (1) Registered nurse, under §30-7-1 et seq. of this code; or

8 (2) Licensed professional counselor, under §30-31-1 et seq. of this code; or

9 (3) Any other equivalent health care professional.

10 (c) A temporary permit is not subject to renewal.

11 (d) A temporary permit may be revoked by a majority vote of the board.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to issue temporary permits to perform social work functions within community mental health centers; establish qualifications for temporary permits; and provide for revocation of permit.

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