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## Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

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### HB 1021

**Brief Description:** Aligning social worker licensing requirements.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Thai, Orwall, Leavitt, Ryu, Simmons, Reed, Lekanoff, Callan, Macri, Reeves, Wylie, Kloba and Ormsby.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes the supervised experience requirements for licensed advanced social workers and licensed independent clinical social workers.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/13/23

**Staff:** Elizabeth Allison (786-7129).

**Background:**

The state licenses two types of social workers: advanced social workers and independent clinical social workers. To become licensed as either type of social worker, an applicant must have: (1) graduated from an approved master's or doctorate level social work educational program; (2) passed an approved examination; and (3) completed a supervised experience requirement.

Advanced Social Workers.

The supervised experience requirement for a licensed advanced social worker consists of a minimum of 3,200 hours with supervision by an approved supervisor. Of those supervised hours:

- at least 90 hours must include direct supervision by a licensed social worker or other equally qualified mental health professional. Of those directly supervised hours:
  - at least 50 hours must include supervision by a licensed social worker; the other 40

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- hours may be supervised by an equally qualified mental health practitioner; and
- At least 40 hours must be one-to-one supervision; fifty hours may be in one-to-one or group supervision.
- Eight hundred hours must be in direct client contact.

#### Independent Clinical Social Workers.

The supervised experience requirement for a licensed independent clinical social worker consists of a minimum of 4,000 hours of experience over a period of at least three years, with supervision by an approved supervisor. Of those supervised hours:

- at least 1,000 hours must be in direct client contact; and
- hours of direct supervision must include:
  - at least 130 hours by a licensed mental health practitioner;
  - at least 70 hours of supervision with a licensed independent clinical social worker; the other 60 hours may be supervised by an equally qualified mental health practitioner; and
  - at least 60 hours must be in one-to-one supervision; 70 hours may be in one-to-one or group supervision.

#### **Summary of Bill:**

The supervised experience requirements for licensed advanced social workers and licensed independent clinical social workers are changed as follows:

#### Advanced Social Workers.

The supervised experience requirement is changed from a minimum of 3,200 hours to a minimum of 3,000 hours. The requirement that, of the 90 hours of direct supervision, at least 50 must include supervision by a licensed social worker and the other 40 may be supervised by an equally qualified mental health practitioner is removed.

#### Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

The supervised experience requirement is changed from a minimum of 4,000 hours over a period of at least three years to 3,000 hours over a period of at least two years. The hours of direct supervision are reduced from 130 hours to 100 hours.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.