

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7830

BILL NUMBER: HB 1448

DATE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Social worker licensing.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a person who has a bachelor's degree in social work and meets certain other requirements may be licensed as a basic social worker. The bill provides that the social worker, marriage and family therapist, and mental health counselor board may limit a basic social worker's practice of social work.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: There could be additional expenses involved, including the printing costs for applications and postage, for issue of the new license proposed. It is believed the Health Professions Bureau (HPB) would be able to absorb these expenditures within their budget.

There may be a need for the HPB to employ additional staff for the administration of the basic social worker license. As of August 2000, the HPB had 45 authorized staff members. Two of the positions are vacant part-time work study student positions. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues: Based on an average growth rate of 2.9%, approximately 205 bachelor's degrees in social work are projected to be awarded from Indiana's public universities in FY 2002 and 211 are projected in FY 2003. Bachelors Degrees awarded in social work from FY 1990 to FY 1999 have averaged 173 per year.

The proposal allows the Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board to establish a fee for a license of basic social work. Currently, a bachelor's degree plus two years of additional experience are required before a license in social work may be obtained.

The fiscal impact is dependent on the fee structure established by the Board. The current fee for a social

worker license is \$20 for the application, \$4 for the issuance fee, \$2 for a temporary fee, and \$1 for out-of-state certification. As of December 12, 2000, 2,696 social workers were licensed to practice in Indiana. If the Board based the fee for a basic social worker license on the current fees for a social worker license, the state could see a revenue increase of approximately \$4,152 in the first year of implementation. A new COMOT 3 position would require expenditures of \$29,748 in FY 2002 and \$29,067 in FY 2003. If an additional COMOT 3 position were required to administer basic social worker licenses, a fee of \$145 would be necessary to recoup the cost of the position. The estimate assumes that all new Indiana bachelor's graduates would apply for a basic social worker license, and does not account for the amount of out-of-state graduates that may apply. Any license fees received as a result of the legislation would be deposited into the State General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Health Professions Bureau; Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Jeffrey Weber, Indiana Commission on Higher Education, (317) 464-4400; Health Professions Bureau.