

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 208**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***James J. O'Day***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to ensure parity in social work licensure.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>

<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Christopher Richard Flanagan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>
<i>Rita A. Mendes</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/11/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 208**

By Representative O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 208) of James J. O'Day and others relative to social work licensure and establishing a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the creation of a new certification for child welfare workers at the Department of Children and Families. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)

An Act to ensure parity in social work licensure.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 131 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in the first paragraph, the following:- “has  
3 passed an examination prepared by the board for this purpose; and”.

4 SECTION 2. Said Section 131 of Chapter 112, as so appearing, is further amended by  
5 striking out, in the second paragraph, the words “he has passed an examination prepared by the  
6 board for this purpose; and will conduct his”, and inserting in place thereof the following: “they  
7 will conduct their”.

8 SECTION 3. Said Section 131 of Chapter 112, as so appearing, is further amended by  
9 striking out the third paragraph in its entirety.

10 SECTION 4. Said Section 131 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
11 hereby amended by striking out, in the fourth paragraph, the words “he has passed an  
12 examination prepared by the board for this purpose; and will conduct his” and inserting in place  
13 thereof the following: “they will conduct their”.

14 SECTION 5. Said section 131 of Chapter 112, as so appearing, is further amended by  
15 striking out the fifth paragraph in its entirety.

16 SECTION 6. Said section 131 of Chapter 112, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
17 striking out, in the sixth paragraph, the words “and has passed a specialty examination in clinical  
18 social work prepared by the board for this purpose”.

19 SECTION 7. Section 132 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
20 Official edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in the first paragraph, the words “licensed  
21 certified social workers, including those in independent clinical practice, licensed social workers  
22 and”.

23 SECTION 8. Chapter 112, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended  
24 by inserting after section 132 the following new section:-

25 Section 132A: (a) A provisional license shall be granted to those applicants who have  
26 taken the examination for a social work associate no less than two times and failed within 15  
27 points. The provisional license shall be valid for a maximum of one year. The licensee shall  
28 complete professional development, supervisory and educational requirements within no less  
29 than one year. Upon completion of the provisional license requirements the licensee shall be  
30 exempt from the testing requirement within section 132 and granted a full license.

31 (b) A licensee operating with a provisional license shall maintain a professional portfolio  
32 that shall include the following:

33 i. Affidavits of understanding regarding the provisional licensing process and  
34 requirements;

35 ii. Eleven separate 3-5 page typed, double spaced papers, each one covering a separate,  
36 specific core content area of social work practice;

37 iii. A daily journal of the probationary licensee's activities and supervision for the  
38 probationary period;

39 iv. A 7-10 page typed, double spaced case analysis covering the probationary licensee's  
40 work with a typical client during the probationary period;

41 v. A 3-5 page typed, double spaced self-evaluation completed by the probationary  
42 licensee which includes an analysis of the licensee's professional knowledge, skills and abilities;

43 vi. Quarterly evaluations completed and submitted to the board by the supervisor  
44 regarding the probationary licensee's development;

45 vii. An evaluation of the supervisor's supervision skills completed by the probationary  
46 licensee;

47 viii. A notarized affidavit from the supervisor attesting to the readiness of the  
48 probationary licensee's ability to perform as a professional social worker based on the  
49 knowledge, skills and abilities observed during the supervision period.

50 SECTION 9. There shall be established a special legislative commission, hereinafter the  
51 commission, to investigate the creation of a new certification for child welfare workers at the  
52 department of children and families. The commission shall consist of the house and senate chairs  
53 of the joint committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, or their designees, who  
54 shall serve as co-chairs; the child advocate, or a designee; the commissioner of the department of  
55 children and families, or their designee; two current workers employed by the the department of  
56 children and families and appointed by SEIU Local 509 who have served at the department for  
57 over five years; two representatives of child or family welfare organizations from communities  
58 which are disproportionately involved with the department of children and families, appointed by  
59 the co-chairs; and two individuals previously personally involved with the department of  
60 children and families, appointed by the co-chairs. All appointments shall be made not later than  
61 60 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall convene its first meeting not  
62 more than 90 days from the effective date of this act.

63 The commission shall examine the feasibility and make recommendations regarding the  
64 creation of a new certification for child welfare workers at the department of children and  
65 families, including, without limitation: 1) whether social work licensure, as outlined in section  
66 121 of Chapter 112 of the general laws, is the only appropriate qualification to be a child welfare  
67 professional employed by the department of children and families; 2) explore the possibility of a  
68 new certification or form of licensure to be made available in addition to social work licensure,  
69 with training and education requirements specific to child protection and the work of the  
70 department of children and families; 3) consider what would qualify an individual for this new  
71 certification, recognizing that standardized tests are inherently biased and do not effectively  
72 evaluate a person's ability to provide services to children and families; 4) ensure that the

73 recommended criteria for child welfare certification not serve as a barrier to certification for  
74 members of communities disproportionately involved with the department of children and  
75 families, and ensures parity for workforce access regardless of primary language, cultural  
76 background, or race.

77           The Commission shall, no later than fifteen months from the effective date of this act,  
78 report to the general court on the results of its investigation and study together with its finding,  
79 by filing the same with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate who shall forward  
80 the same to the secretary of the executive office of health and human services, the house and  
81 senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on children, families, and persons  
82 with disabilities, and the joint committee on consumer protection and professional licensure.