

SENATE No. 160

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (“The SUPER Act”).

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>3/29/2023</i>
<i>Rita A. Mendes</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/11/2023</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>5/1/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/10/2023</i>

<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>5/17/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>6/13/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>9/14/2023</i>
<i>Pavel M. Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>9/14/2023</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>10/10/2023</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>10/10/2023</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>11/27/2023</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>11/27/2023</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2024</i>

SENATE No. 160

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 160) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Manny Cruz, Susannah M. Whipps, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (“The SUPER Act”). Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (“The SUPER Act”).

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. Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 official version,
2 shall be amended by inserting after Section 135C the following section:-

3 "Section 135D. To ensure a stable, diverse workforce of licensed social workers in the
4 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to provide for increased support and retention of
5 practicing licensed social workers, The Department of Education (DOE) shall create and
6 administer a field placement grant program (FPGP). This program shall, subject to appropriation,
7 grant funding to designated recipients with a specific focus on recruiting and retaining Masters of
8 Social Work (MSW) students from historically marginalized communities and low-income
9 communities. Funds to establish this program shall be allocated from state, federal, or other
10 dedicated resources, including existing trust funds.

11 For the purposes of this section, eligible applicants must attend a school of social work
12 Master's Program physically located in Massachusetts that has been accredited by the Council on
13 Social Work Education (CSWE).

14 To be eligible for consideration, applicants must submit the following:

15 (i) Applicant demographic background information, including but not limited to: race,
16 ethnicity, geographic location in the state, and date of birth for purposes of data collection;

17 (ii) Applicant's school of social work, type of Master's program, and GPA;

18 (iii) Applicant's stated and signed commitment to working in Massachusetts post-
19 graduation for at least 2 years; and

20 (iv) Applicant's one-page statement on the importance of this stipend in the applicant's
21 life and how the grant will support their educational goals and the workforce needs of the
22 Commonwealth.

23 Priority for the FPGP will be to first-generation college students, and at least 50 percent
24 of recipients awarded grants must identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Applications
25 will be submitted and considered on a rolling basis between January 1st and no later than March
26 1st of each calendar year. Recipients of stipends shall be notified no later than April 15th of said
27 calendar year.

28 Stipends shall be allocated as follows:

29 (i) A current MSW student in good standing completing their first-year field placement of
30 16 hours per week shall be eligible for a monthly stipend of \$1,000 per month, not to exceed
31 \$8,000 annually.

32 (ii) A current MSW student in good standing completing their second-year field
33 placement of 24 hours per week shall be eligible for a monthly stipend of \$2,000 per month, not
34 to exceed a total of \$16,000 annually.

35 (iii) Advanced standing students who are only required to conduct one field placement
36 shall be eligible for the second-year field placement stipend.

37 Applicant data, including application details submitted, shall be tracked by the
38 department such that the program efficacy can be evaluated."

39 SECTION 2. Section 131 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, is hereby amended in the
40 fourth paragraph by striking the words:- "Said individual shall also furnish evidence satisfactory
41 to the board that he has passed an examination prepared by the board for this purpose"

42 SECTION 3. Said Section 131 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, is hereby further
43 amended in the fifth paragraph by striking in line one the following words:- "the examination
44 and", and in line four the following words:- "the examination or".

45 SECTION 4. Said Section 131 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, is hereby further
46 amended in the sixth paragraph by striking the following words:- "and has passed a specialty
47 examination in clinical social work prepared by the board for this purpose."

48 SECTION 5. Section 132 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, is hereby struck in its
49 entirety.

50 SECTION 6. Section 136 of said Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
51 official 2022 version, shall be amended by inserting after the fourth paragraph the following
52 paragraph:- "Licensed independent clinical social workers (LICSWs) engaged in independent

53 clinical practice who provide one-on-one supervision to a licensed certified social worker,
54 Master's of social work intern, or Bachelor's of social work intern, shall be eligible to receive up
55 to eight continuing education credits during a licensing period for this supervision."