

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Christine P. Barber and Michael P. Kushmerek***

*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.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>

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

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1253 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to social work uplifting practices and exam removal.

*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. The first paragraph of section 131 of chapter 112 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the words “has passed an examination prepared by the board for  
3 this purpose;”.

4 SECTION 2. The first sentence of the first paragraph of section 132 of chapter 112 of the  
5 General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the words “Examinations for licensed certified  
6 social workers, including those in independent clinical practice” and inserting in place thereof  
7 the following words:- Examinations for licensed independent clinical social workers.

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
9 section 135C the following section:-

10 Section 135D. To ensure a stable, diverse workforce of licensed social workers in the  
11 commonwealth, and to provide for increased support and retention of practicing licensed social  
12 workers, the commonwealth shall administer a paid practicum placement grant program for  
13 Master of Social Work (MSW) students in good standing. The program shall, subject to  
14 appropriation, provide grant funding to designated recipients with a specific focus on recruiting  
15 and retaining MSW students from historically marginalized communities and low-income  
16 communities. Funds to establish this program shall be allocated from state, federal, or other  
17 dedicated resources, including existing trust funds.

18 Eligible applicants must attend a school of social work Masters program physically  
19 located in Massachusetts that has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

20 Applicant data, including application details submitted, shall be tracked by the executive  
21 office so that the program efficacy and equity can be evaluated.

22 SECTION 4. Section 136 of chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
23 inserting after the fourth paragraph the following paragraph:-

24 Licensed independent clinical social workers engaged in independent clinical practice  
25 who provide one-on-one supervision to a licensed certified social worker, licensed social worker,  
26 Masters of social work intern, or Bachelors of social work intern, shall be eligible to receive up  
27 to 8 continuing education credits during a licensing period for this supervision.

28 SECTION 5. The executive office of health and human services shall conduct an  
29 evaluation of the impact of removal of the licensing examination requirement for Licensed  
30 Certified Social Workers under sections 1 and 2, should it deem such an evaluation necessary.  
31 The evaluation may include an analysis of the impact of removing the examination requirement

32 on alleviating shortages of qualified social workers, expanding access to quality behavioral  
33 health services, increasing the diversity of the social worker workforce among diverse language  
34 skills, race, ethnicity, and cultural backgrounds, and the impact of any increase in diversity on  
35 patient care, particularly for vulnerable populations. In preparing the evaluation, the consultant  
36 shall meet with representatives of organizations representing social workers, social work  
37 education, social work testing, social work patients, behavioral health advocacy organizations,  
38 and other groups that may assist the evaluation. The evaluation and analysis shall be conducted  
39 independently of the executive office. The executive office shall submit the evaluation to the  
40 committee on higher education, the committee on mental health, substance use and recovery and  
41 the house and senate committees on ways and means no later than the year in which said  
42 evaluation was initiated.