

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2590

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, September 8, 2025.

The committee on Higher Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 218) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Joanne M. Comerford, Manny Cruz, Paul R. Feeney and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to Social Work Uplifting Practices and Exam Removal (“The SUPER Act”), report the accompanying bill (Senate, No.2590).

For the committee,  
Joanne M. Comerford

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**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 (“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. Section 131 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 7, the words “has passed an  
3 examination prepared by the board for this purpose;”.

4           SECTION 2. Section 132 of said chapter 112 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines  
5 1 to 2, the words “Examinations for licensed certified social workers, including those in  
6 independent clinical practice” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Examinations  
7 for licensed independent clinical social workers.

8           SECTION 3. Said chapter 112 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 135C  
9 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 students in good standing. The program shall, subject to appropriation,

14 provide grant funding to designated recipients with a specific focus on recruiting and retaining  
15 Master of Social Work 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 The executive office of education shall collaborate with eligible institutions of higher  
21 education to track applicant data, including application details submitted, and evaluate the  
22 program's efficacy and equity.

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

25 Licensed independent clinical social workers engaged in independent clinical practice  
26 who provide one-on-one supervision to a licensed certified social worker, licensed social worker,  
27 Masters of social work intern or Bachelors of social work intern shall be eligible to receive up to  
28 8 continuing education credits during a licensing period for said supervision.

29 SECTION 5. The executive office of health and human services shall conduct an  
30 evaluation of the impact of removal of the licensing examination requirement for licensed  
31 certified social workers under sections 131 and 132 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as most  
32 recently amended by section 1 and 2 of this act. The executive office shall contract with an  
33 independent evaluation consultant to perform the evaluation. The evaluation shall include an  
34 analysis of the impact of removing the examination requirement on alleviating shortages of  
35 qualified social workers, providing high-quality patient care, expanding access to quality

36 behavioral health services, increasing the diversity of the social worker workforce among diverse  
37 language skills, race, ethnicity and cultural backgrounds and the impact of any increase in  
38 diversity on patient care, particularly for vulnerable populations. In preparing the evaluation, the  
39 consultant shall meet with representatives of organizations representing social workers, social  
40 work education, social work testing, social work patients, behavioral health advocacy  
41 organizations and other groups that may assist the evaluation. The evaluation and analysis shall  
42 be conducted independently of the executive office. The executive office shall submit the  
43 evaluation and associated recommendations pursuant to the removal of the licensing examination  
44 requirement to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on  
45 higher education, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery and the  
46 house and senate committees on ways and means not later than July 31, 2028.

47 SECTION 6. Sections 1 and 2 are hereby repealed.

48 SECTION 7. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on January 1, 2026. Section 6 shall take  
49 effect on December 31, 2030.