

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to professional social work
 3 identification; creating s. 491.016, F.S.; providing
 4 requirements for using the title "social worker";
 5 providing a penalty; providing a grandfather clause;
 6 requiring the Department of Health to adopt certain
 7 implementing and enforcing rules; providing an effective
 8 date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12 Section 1. Section 491.016, Florida Statutes, is created
 13 to read:

14 491.016 Professional social work identification.--

15 (1) It shall be a misdemeanor of the first degree,
 16 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for a
 17 person, for or without compensation, to hold himself or herself
 18 out to the public as a social worker either directly or through
 19 a governmental or private organization, entity, or agency unless
 20 that person:

21 1. Possesses at least a bachelor's or master's degree in
 22 social work from a social work program accredited by or from an
 23 institution that is an active candidate for accreditation as a
 24 social work program by the Council of Social Work Education; or

25 2. Completes, at a university or college outside the
 26 United States or Canada, a social work program determined by the
 27 Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on

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28 Social Work Education to be equivalent to a bachelor's or
29 master's degree in social work.

30 (2) This section shall not apply to a person who, prior to
31 July 1, 2005, used the title "social worker" in his or her
32 employment as long as the person continuously works for the same
33 employer and works in the same capacity for that employer as
34 before July 1, 2005.

35 (3) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.
36 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement and enforce this section.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.