

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to social worker identification; amending  
 3           ss. 39.01 and 491.003, F.S.; providing definitions for  
 4           "social worker"; creating s. 491.016, F.S.; providing  
 5           requirements for using the title "social worker";  
 6           providing a penalty; providing exemptions; requiring the  
 7           Department of Health to adopt certain implementing and  
 8           enforcing rules; providing an effective date.

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

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 12           Section 1. Subsections (70), (71), (72), (73), and (74) of  
 13           section 39.01, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections  
 14           (71), (72), (73), (74), and (75), respectively, and a new  
 15           subsection (70) is added to that section to read:

16           39.01 Definitions.--When used in this chapter, unless the  
 17           context otherwise requires:

18           (70) "Social worker" means any person who has a  
 19           bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in social work.

20           Section 2. Subsection (17) is added to section 491.003,  
 21           Florida Statutes, to read:

22           491.003 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:  
 23           (17) "Social worker" means a person who has a bachelor's,  
 24           master's, or doctoral degree in social work.

25           Section 3. Section 491.016, Florida Statutes, is created  
 26           to read:

27           491.016 Social work; use of title.--

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28       (1) A social worker is not authorized to conduct clinical  
29 social work without obtaining and possessing a license or  
30 certification issued pursuant to this chapter.

31       (2) It shall be a misdemeanor of the first degree,  
32 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for a  
33 person, for or without compensation, to hold himself or herself  
34 out to the public as a social worker either directly or through  
35 a governmental or private organization, entity, or agency unless  
36 that person:

37       (a) Possesses at least a bachelor's or master's degree in  
38 social work from a social work program accredited by or from an  
39 institution that is an active candidate for accreditation as a  
40 social work program by the Council of Social Work Education; or

41       (b) Completes, at a university or college outside the  
42 United States or Canada, a social work program determined by the  
43 Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
44 Social Work Education to be equivalent to a bachelor's or  
45 master's degree in social work.

46       (3) This section does not apply to:

47       (a) A person who, prior to July 1, 2007, used the title  
48 "social worker" in his or her employment as long as the person  
49 continuously works for the same employer and works in the same  
50 capacity for that employer as before July 1, 2007.

51       (b) Employees providing social work services under  
52 administrative supervision in long-term care facilities licensed  
53 by the Agency for Health Care Administration.

54       (4) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.  
55 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement and enforce this section.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.