

1 HB321
2 149051-1
3 By Representative Johnson (R)
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 21-FEB-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would clarify the duties of a
9 licensed certified social worker and would define
10 psychosocial evaluation.
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12 A BILL
13 TO BE ENTITLED
14 AN ACT
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16 Relating to the Board of Social Work Examiners; to
17 amend Section 34-30-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to define
18 psychosocial evaluation; and to add Section 34-30-34 to the
19 Code of Alabama 1975, to clarify the duties and scope of
20 practice of a licensed certified social worker.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. Section 34-30-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 "§34-30-1.

25 "As used in this chapter, the following words and
26 terms shall have the following meanings:

1 "(1) BOARD. The State Board of Social Work Examiners
2 established under this chapter.

3 "~~(6)~~ (2) FULL-TIME SOCIAL WORK. Thirty-five hours
4 per week.

5 "~~(7)~~ (3) PART-TIME SOCIAL WORK. At least 10 hours
6 per week or more, and will be considered equivalent to
7 full-time social work on a pro rata basis as determined by the
8 board.

9 "(4) PSYCHOSOCIAL EVALUATION. An assessment by a
10 licensed certified social worker applying the appropriate
11 classification code as outlined in recognized classification
12 systems such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
13 Mental Disorders, the International Classification of
14 Diseases, or other evaluative and assessment systems, to
15 mental health issues that fall within the boundaries of social
16 work practice.

17 "~~(2)~~ (5) SOCIAL WORK. The professional activity of
18 helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore
19 their capacity for social functioning, and of preventing or
20 controlling social problems altering societal conditions as a
21 means towards enabling people to attain their maximum
22 potential.

23 "~~(5)~~ (6) SOCIAL WORK METHOD. An orderly, systematic
24 mode of practice and procedure recognized and approved by the
25 Board of Social Work Examiners. This includes but is not
26 limited to social casework, social group work, and community
27 organization.

1 "~~(3)~~ (7) SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE. The professional
2 application of social work values, principles, and techniques
3 to one or more of the following ends: Helping people obtain
4 tangible services, counseling with individuals, families, and
5 groups, helping communities or groups provide or improve
6 social and health services, engaging in research related to
7 those ends and principles, and administering organizations and
8 agencies engaging in such practice. The practice of social
9 work requires knowledge of human development and behavior, of
10 social, economic, and cultural institutions and of the
11 interaction of all these factors.

12 "~~(4)~~ (8) SOCIAL WORK SPECIALTY. A defined area of
13 social work practice recognized and approved by the Board of
14 Social Work Examiners."

15 Section 2. Section 34-30-34 is added to the Code of
16 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

17 §34-30-34.

18 (a) A licensed certified social worker under this
19 chapter shall provide clinical treatment or psychosocial
20 evaluation using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
21 Mental Disorders as it relates to social work practice.

22 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as
23 permitting or allowing a licensed certified social worker to
24 prescribe or administer any drug, make a medical diagnosis,
25 provide medical treatment, or manage a medical condition. A
26 licensed certified social worker may not attempt to diagnose,
27 prescribe for, treat, or advise a client with reference to any

1 problem, complaint, or condition falling outside the
2 boundaries of social work or social work practice.

3 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
4 first day of the third month following its passage and
5 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.