

HB56 INTRODUCED



1 L646YA-1
2 By Representative Holk-Jones
3 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23
5 PFD: 06-Mar-23



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would provide further for the scope of practice of licensees of the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners; to amend Section 34-30-3, Code of Alabama 1975, and to add Section 34-30-34 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to provide further for the scope of practice of licensees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-30-3 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§34-30-3

(a) No ~~person~~ individual may engage in the independent clinical practice of social work unless he or she ~~is~~ satisfies all of the following:

(1) ~~Licensed~~ Is licensed under this chapter as ~~a licensed an~~ independent clinical social worker; ~~and.~~

(2) Has a doctorate or master's degree from a school of social work approved, accredited, or in candidacy granted by



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29 the Council on Social Work Education; ~~and.~~

30 (3) Has had two years' full-time or three years'
31 part-time postgraduate experience under appropriate
32 supervision in the specified social work method or four years'
33 full-time or five years' part-time postgraduate experience
34 under appropriate supervision in the speciality in which the
35 applicant will practice.

36 (4) Has passed an examination prepared by the board for
37 this purpose; except, that prior to the time that an
38 examination is prepared by the board for this purpose, no
39 ~~person~~ individual who otherwise meets the requirements of this
40 section will be prohibited from engaging in the private
41 independent practice of social work; ~~and.~~

42 (5) Has been issued by mail a certified letter of
43 certification stating his or her qualification for private
44 independent practice by the board; ~~and.~~

45 (6) Has paid an initial certification fee set by the
46 board.

47 (b) The scope of practice of a licensed independent
48 clinical social worker includes the authority to diagnose and
49 develop treatment plans. The scope of practice does not
50 include the diagnosis, treatment, or provision of advice to a
51 client for problems or complaints relating to conditions
52 outside the boundaries of the practice of social work.

53 (c) For the purposes of this section, the terms
54 diagnose and treatment, whether considered in isolation or in
55 conjunction with the rules of the board, may not be construed
56 to permit the performance of any act which a licensed clinical



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57 social worker is not educated or trained to perform including,
58 but not limited to, any of the following:

59 (1) Administering and interpreting psychological tests
60 or intellectual, neuropsychological, personality, or
61 projective instruments.

62 (2) Admitting any individual to a hospital for
63 treatment of any condition that is outside the boundaries of
64 the practice of social work, as provided in subsection (b).

65 (3) Treating any individual in a hospital setting
66 without medical supervision.

67 (4) Prescribing medicinal drugs.

68 (5) Authorizing clinical laboratory procedures or
69 radiological procedures.

70 (6) Using electroconvulsive therapy.

71 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
72 create a requirement that any health benefit plan, group
73 insurance plan, policy, or contract for health care services
74 that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses, health
75 maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations,
76 medical service organizations, physician-hospital
77 organizations, or any other individual, firm, corporation,
78 joint venture, or other similar business entity that pays for,
79 purchases, or furnishes group health care services to
80 patients, insureds, or beneficiaries in this state, including
81 entities created pursuant to Article 6, commencing with
82 Section 10A-20-6.01 of Chapter 20, Title 10A, Code of Alabama
83 1975, provide coverage or reimbursement for the services
84 described or authorized in this section."



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

87 §34-30-34.

88 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize
89 any individual licensed under this chapter to practice
90 medicine or to describe or label any test, report, or
91 procedure as psychological or as a psychological evaluation.

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