

**2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS**

Committee Name:

*Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)*

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_sb0401_pt01

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

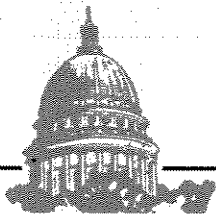
➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Senate Bill 401

RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR A CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER LICENSE.

- Under current law as a condition of receiving a clinical social worker license, a person must have a master's or doctorate degree in social work. In addition, as part of the master's or doctorate degree programs, a person must complete a clinical social worker concentration and supervised clinical field training.
- The bill would allow a person to complete the concentration and field training as part of postgraduate studies.
-This would allow someone who received a Master's Degree in Social Work but had a concentration in an area other than clinical social work to go back later in his/her career and obtain the necessary requirements for a clinical licensure.
- The Assembly Committee on Children and Families had a public hearing on January 15th. No executive action as been taken.



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

DAVE HANSEN

SENATOR - 30TH DISTRICT

State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 Phone: (608) 266-5670

January 27, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler
Room 8 South
State Capitol
Hand-Delivered

Dear Sen. ~~Roessler~~, *Carol,*

I am writing to respectfully request that you move expeditiously to schedule Senate Bill 401 (SB-401) for a public hearing before your Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.

SB 401 makes a common sense change to current law regarding the licensing of social workers, making it possible for Masters level social workers to become licensed clinical social workers even if their original graduate social work study and field placement were not sufficiently "clinical". It will also make it easier for the 4 MSW programs in Wisconsin to encourage its students to focus on areas of social work practice, like child abuse and neglect, where there is a shortage of qualified practitioners.

In addition, SB 401 has a great deal of support within the social worker profession, garnering the endorsement of the National Association of Social Workers-WI Chapter, UW Green Bay/UW Oshkosh's MSW Program, UW Madison's MSW Program, UW Milwaukee's MSW Program and Carthage/Loyola University's MSW Program.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request please call me at 6-5670.

Sincerely,

Dave Hansen
State Senator

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*JH called
Sen. Hansen's
office on 1/30/04 &
let them know a
hearing will be
held on 2/11/04.*

History of Senate Bill 401

SENATE BILL 401

An Act to renumber and amend 457.08 (4) (b) of the statutes; relating to: qualifications for a clinical social worker license and granting rule-making authority.

2004

- 01-21. S. Introduced by Senators Hansen, A. Lasee, S. Fitzgerald, Chvala and Roessler; cosponsored by Representatives Bies, Ainsworth, Berceau, Cullen, Hines, Huebsch, Jeskewitz, Kreibich, J. Lehman, Olsen, Owens, Petrowski, Pope-Roberts, Seratti, Shilling, Wasserman, Ott, Van Roy, Molepske, Miller and Stone.
- 01-21. S. Read first time and referred to committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care 556

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2-12-04
Hearings

SB 401

Eric (on behalf of Sen. Hensen) + Mark Heinstand

Submitted written testimony.

- Current law does not allow an MSW to later become a clinical soc. worker.
- those that decide they'd like to become a clinical soc. worker later - cannot do so.
- Soc workers from other states that are clin. soc. cannot practice here.
- Students feel pressure to take clinical req. in the event they are interested in this area down the road.
- Assembly bill will be exec'd next week.

~~Chandra Gordin~~

~~CK~~ Sharyl Kato : CK thinks she would be great person to serve on leg. Council Committee on M.H. treatment for 14 yr olds.

Vote Record

Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care

Date: 2/12
 Moved by: CR Seconded by: Sh JB401
Passage

AB _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Carol Roessler, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ted Kanavas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ronald Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Welch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Judith Robson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Charles Chvala	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Jauch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Tim Carpenter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____

TESTIMONY OF CORNELIA M. GORDON-HEMPE, ACSW, LCSW, CISW

SB 401

February 12, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Roessler:

My name is Cornelia Gordon-Hempe and I have been a social worker for approximately thirty years. I was appointed to the first Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors (the board titles have since been reversed) in 1992 and served there for ten years, virtually all of them in the capacity as chair of the Social Worker section. As I no longer serve on this board, I am here today representing myself. I strongly support this legislation and urge you to pass it.

When the Examining Board legislation (Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 457) was drafted, it created four categories of social workers: one for those who possessed bachelors degrees in social work, one for those who had just obtained a masters, and two categories for those who had their MSW degree and at least two years of supervised social work practice. These latter two categories were 1) for those who were experienced but elected not to practice psychotherapy and 2) for those who were experienced and wanted to practice psychotherapy. The bill's supporters believed that social workers who practiced psychotherapy would apply for the independent clinical certificate and those who worked in other domains would apply for the independent certificate.

Many social work professionals enter different realms of practice; there is no professional hierarchy which differentiates clinicians/psychotherapists from non-clinicians. Unfortunately, and apparently unintentionally, the wording of Chapter 457 appears to suggest that clinical social work is "higher," "more advanced," or even "better" than non-clinical social work. Thus it was no surprise that many non-clinicians/non-psychotherapists applied for and obtained clinical certification during the two-year waiver period (June 1, 1993-May 30, 1995) because they met the requirements then in place.

An additional complicating factor was that the term "clinical" had a broader meaning when the legislation was developed. "Clinical" often meant how one uses his/her personality to effect change in a person, family, or community group. Social work refers to this as "use of self." This is comparable to a teacher using his/her personality to instruct, an attorney using his/her personality to argue in court on behalf of a client, or a physician who has a good bedside manner. Thus, many social workers believed they had "clinical skills" or good "use of self" but unfortunately did not possess the requisite background to practice psychotherapy. An additional irony is that schools of social work, including those in Wisconsin, argued for some time about the meaning of "clinical," even after the creation of Chapter 457.

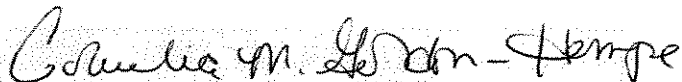
There were unfortunate side effects when certain social workers held clinical certification and practiced psychotherapy without the necessary training and experience. The Social Worker section saw some examples during the disciplinary process. It became clear to those of us on the original Social Worker section that we would need to tighten the requirements for obtaining clinical certification. Thus, we established academic and field or practicum requirements for clinical social work, and provided a definition of "clinical." Our goal was to protect the public by ensuring that clinical social workers working with complex emotional pathology or intricately disrupted family relationships would be sufficiently trained to help clients improve their lives.

The downside to this decision was social workers holding the independent social worker certification and who may have been trained and employed in child welfare, adult services, community organizing, etc. would be unable to become clinical social workers if they chose to do so later in their careers. Enacting this legislation will ensure those non-clinical social workers who hold masters degrees in social work will be able to obtain the necessary education and training without ceasing current employment. They could become employed as psychotherapists under the advanced practice or independent certificates, as long as they are supervised by the appropriate people listed in the legislation.

I believe this is win-win for all concerned. It is legislation that I had wanted to see enacted while I was on the Examining Board. I am delighted it is now before you.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you, and thank you for listening.

Yours sincerely,



Cornelia M. Gordon-Hempe, ACSW, LCSW, CISW

February 12, 2004

To: Carol Roessler, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families,
Aging and Long Term Care

From: Marc Herstand, Executive Director

RE: Senate Bill 401

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, I am pleased to support Senate Bill 401.

Senate Bill 401 would correct a problem in current Wisconsin law that prevents some masters' level social workers from ever practicing clinical social work.

Current Wisconsin Law requires applicants for licensure as a clinical social worker to have completed a clinical or mental health field placement and course of studies in graduate school, and 3,000 hours of supervised clinical practice after graduate school.

Wisconsin law is one of the strictest in the country, as many states do not require a mental health field placement and course of studies in graduate school.

Under current law masters level social workers whose graduate field placement or course of studies was insufficiently clinical, have no recourse for ever obtaining licensure as a clinical social worker no matter how many years of supervised mental health counseling/psychotherapy experience or number of mental health post graduate courses they might have taken. The reason is that current law does not permit meeting these requirements after graduate school.

Therefore SB 401 has been introduced which would allow masters level social workers with inadequate clinical graduate studies or an inadequate clinical field training to take additional courses in postgraduate studies and extend post masters supervised clinical experience in order to qualify to take the exam for licensure as a clinical social worker.

SB 401 will solve the following problems in current law

- 1) As mentioned above, masters' level social workers who gain experience in psychotherapy and mental health counseling after graduate school have no ability to become licensed under current law if their graduate social work studies and field placement were not sufficiently "clinical".

- 2) Masters level social workers who decide later in their career that they would like to become licensed clinical social workers cannot achieve this status if their graduate social work studies and field placement were not sufficiently "clinical".
- 3) Masters level social workers moving to Wisconsin, including those with a clinical licensure from another state, are often turned down for licensure in Wisconsin because our requirements for licensure are more strict than most other states in terms of the clinical field placement and clinical course of study requirement. Under the current law, these individuals have no recourse to make up the deficiency and therefore will never be able to work as licensed clinical social workers in Wisconsin
- 4) Because of the rigidity of the current law, many graduate social work students who are not interested in clinical social work will request "clinical" field placements and "clinical" classes to "hedge" their bets in the unlikely event they change their mind at a later point in their practice. This situation creates an unnecessary programmatic and financial burden on Wisconsin's professional social work programs.

In addition to the issues listed above, passage of this bill would make it easier for the 4 MSW programs in Wisconsin to encourage its students to focus on areas of social work practice, like child abuse and neglect, where there is a shortage of qualified practitioners.

This bill is supported by the Department of Regulation & Licensing, the Social Workers Section, the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, UW Oshkosh/ UW Green Bay's MSW Program, UW Madison's MSW Program, UW Milwaukee's MSW Program and Carthage/Loyola University's MSW Program.

A hearing was held on the Assembly version of SB 401, Assembly Bill 693, on January 15, 2004. Seven speakers spoke in favor of the bill. There were no individuals or agencies either speaking or registering in opposition to the bill. An executive session on Assembly Bill 693 is scheduled for February 19.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

TESTIMONY – SB 401

February 12, 2004

My name is Joanne Barndt and I am a Clinical Associate Professor at the UW-Milwaukee School of Social Welfare. My primary responsibility at the university is the placement and monitoring of graduate and undergraduate social work field placements. We have approximately 200 – 250 students in field placements at any one time and I am here to speak in favor of SB 401

The university advocated for Act 80 because it had clearly outlined the necessary preparation to become a licensed clinical social worker. But even good legislation has flaws or unanticipated outcomes. And it didn't take long for the University to experience one of the unanticipated outcomes which had nothing to do with what the preparation should be, but rather when the preparation should occur.

The current law requires applicants for the clinical license to have completed a clinical experience. If one starts at the student level, it was logical to assume that this requirement would be fulfilled within the MSW curriculum, and upon graduation, the student who planned to become a clinical social worker would be prepared to be hired for a beginning clinical social work position.

However, the current law forgot to take into consideration the fact that professional social workers often change career focus. Under the current law, if an individual had not completed a clinical placement as part of their MSW program, they could never be licensed as a clinical social worker. As a result, the university experienced an increase in student requests for the specialized clinical placements and a decrease in requests for child welfare and other case management field placements. When I asked students whether they planned to pursue clinical social work immediately after graduation, I was often told no, but they were requesting a clinical placement just in case they wished to do clinical social work some time in the next 30-40 years. To them, this was a form of insurance. But for the social work community, it has become a huge burden. There are not enough clinical social work agencies to meet the demand for clinical placements nor is there a need in our state for every social worker to be prepared to do clinical social work. There is a need to prepare social workers for the child welfare and gerontology fields, and these placements are currently going unfilled.

Which brings us to SB 401. SB 401 would enable students to seek field placements that would prepare them for their first job at the MSW level and not jeopardize future opportunities to engage in clinical social work. For those students who decide to engage in clinical social work at a later date, SB 401 enables them to, at that time, obtain the necessary preparation to do so. This makes good educational sense.

SB 401 also makes good economic sense. The university can better use its state funding to prepare students for immediate state social work needs rather than preparing students for areas that the student may never enter.

Until our students can be assured that they can meet the requirements for clinical licensure at a post-MSW level, they will continue to request clinical placements over other areas of social work. The sooner we make this change, the better.

Joanne Barndt
414-229-6010
jbarndt@uwm.edu

Senate Bill 401... relating to: qualifications for a clinical social worker license and granting rule-making authority.

<p>BILL SPONSORS</p>	<p>Introduced by Senators Hansen, A. Lasee, S. Fitzgerald, Chvala and Roessler. Cosponsored by Representatives Bies, Ainsworth, Berceau, Cullen, Hines, Huebsch, Jeskewitz, Kreibich, J. Lehman, Olsen, Owens, Petrowski, Pope-Roberts, Seratti, Shilling, Wasserman, Ott, Van Roy, Molepske, Miller and Stone. Referred to Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.</p>
<p>BILL HISTORY</p>	<p>Senate Bill 401 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care on January 21, 2004. A public hearing and executive session were held on February 12, 2004.</p> <p>The Committee recommended passage of Senate Bill 401 with a vote of 9-0.</p>
<p>LRB ANALYSIS</p>	<p>Current Law: Under current law, the social worker section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board grants licenses to different types of social workers, including clinical social workers. For a clinical social worker license, an applicant must satisfy specified requirements, including having a master's or doctorate degree in social work. In addition, as part of the master's or doctorate degree program, the applicant must have completed a clinical social worker concentration and supervised clinical field training.</p> <p>Proposal: Under this bill, an applicant is allowed to have completed the concentration and field training as part of postgraduate studies or, as under current law, as part of a master's or doctorate degree program. In addition, regardless of whether the concentration and field training have been completed as part of postgraduate studies or a master's or doctorate degree program, the bill specifies that the concentration and field training must be approved by the social worker section. Also, the bill allows the board, with the advice of the social worker section, to promulgate rules allowing an applicant to substitute a specified number of hours of supervised clinical work experience for the field training.</p> <p>Major Impact: A person who has a Master Degree in Social Work, with a concentration other than clinical social work, can fulfill the necessary educational requirements to obtain a clinical social worker license as part of postgraduate studies.</p>
<p>FISCAL EFFECT</p>	<p>A fiscal note was not prepared for this bill.</p>
<p>SUPPORT</p>	<p>The following people appeared in favor of this bill: (1) Sharyl Kato, Self, Madison; (2) Joanne Barndt, UW Milwaukee, Milwaukee; (3) William Heiss, UW Madison School of Social Work, Madison; (4) Natalie DeSiimone, Self, Manitowoc; (5) Susan Sorenson, Self, Valders; (6) Cornelia Gordon-Hempe, Self, Madison; (7) Elizabeth Ann Gammon, UW Oshkosh; (8) John Schweitzer, Department of Regulation and Licensing; (9) Eric Genrich, Office of Senator Hansen; and (10) Marc Herstand, National Association of Social Workers, WI Chapter.</p> <p>The following people registered in favor of this bill: (1) Chris Klein, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Madison; (2) Representative Gary Bies, 1st Assembly District; (3) Elizabeth Hudson, Self, Madison; (4) Rodney Miller, Department of</p>

	Health and Family Services, Madison
OPPOSITION	No one appeared or registered in opposition to this bill.
CONTACT	Jennifer Halbur, Carol Roessler, 266-5300
DATE	March 3, 2004

March 4, 2004

FLOOR DISTRIBUTION
AUTHORIZED BY SENATOR
HANSEN

Dear Members of the Wisconsin State Senate:

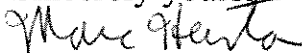
Please pass Senate Bill 401.

Senate Bill 401 will correct an unintended rigidity in the current licensure law affecting social workers. It will allow more individuals to apply for licensure as a clinical social worker.

Senate Bill 401 passed unanimously out of the Senate Committee on Health. An identical bill, AB 693, passed unanimously out of the Assembly Committee on Children and Families.

Senate Bill 401 is supported by the Department of Regulation & Licensing, the Social Workers Section of the Examining Board, the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter and the MSW Social Work Programs at Carthage/Loyola University, the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Oshkosh, Milwaukee and Madison.

Sincerely yours,



Marc Herstand

Executive Director

NASW WI Chapter

MAR 12 2004

National Association of Social Workers

TU = CR
JH

March 11, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Roessler:

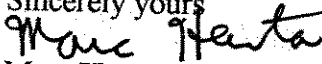
I am writing to thank you for your assistance and support in the passage of Senate Bill 401. I greatly appreciate your support for this bill on the Senate floor and in your Senate Committee.

As you know this bill corrects an unintended rigidity in the current social work licensure law and will allow more individuals to apply for licensure as a clinical social worker. This bill will help many masters level social workers throughout the State who up to now have not been able to qualify to apply for licensure as a clinical worker. It will enable students at the Masters level social work programs in Wisconsin (U W Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Green Bay and Carthage College/Loyola University) to study and do their field placement in areas of social work with a great need (like child welfare) rather than feeling they have to focus exclusively on mental health practice.

Thanks again for all your help to get SB 401 passed in the State Senate.

The State Assembly concurred in SB 401 last night. I would expect the Governor to sign the bill over the next several weeks.

Sincerely yours


Marc Herstand, MSW CISW
Executive Director
NASW WI Chapter



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SOCIAL WORKERS
WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Marc D. Herstand, MSW, CISW
Executive Director

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PHONE 608-257-6334 FAX 608-257-8233 EMAIL: MARC.HERSTAND@TDS.NET