

☞ **03hr_AC-CF_ab693_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Children and Families (AC-CF)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (May 2012)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Children and Families

Assembly Bill 693

Relating to: qualifications for a clinical social worker license and granting rule-making authority.

By Representatives Bies, Ainsworth, Berceau, Cullen, Hines, Huebsch, Jeskewitz, Kreibich, J. Lehman, Olsen, Owens, Petrowski, Pope-Roberts, Seratti, Shilling, Wasserman, Ott and Van Roy; cosponsored by Senators A. Lasee and Hansen.

December 05, 2003 Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

January 15, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (8) Representatives Kestell, Ladwig, Albers, Jeskewitz, Vukmir, Sinicki, Miller and Krug.
Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Cornelia Gordon-Hempe, Social Worker/self, Madison
- Marc Herstand, National Association of Social Workers, Madison
- Sharyl Kato, Rainbow Project, Madison
- Joanne Barndt, UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee
- William Heiss, UW-Madison School of Social Work, Madison
- Elizabeth Hudson, Rainbow Project, Madison
- John Schweitzer, Dept. of Regulation and Licensing-Social Work Board, Madison
- Andrew Nolan, Office of Rep. Bies

Appearances Against

None.

Appearances for Information Only

None.

Registrations For

Department Regulation and Licensing, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Madison

Registrations Against

None.

February 19, 2004 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Representatives Kestell, Ladwig, Albers, Vukmir, Sinicki, Miller and Toles.

Absent: (1) Representative Jeskewitz.

Moved by Representative Albers, seconded by Representative Ladwig that **Assembly Bill 693** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (7) Representatives Kestell, Ladwig, Albers, Vukmir, Sinicki, Miller and Toles.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (1) Representative Jeskewitz.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

David Matzen
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Children and Families

Date: 2-19-04

Moved by: Albers Seconded by: Ladwig

AB 693 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>
Representative Steve Kestell, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Bonnie Ladwig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Sheryl Albers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Leah Vukmir	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Christine Sinicki _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Barbara Toles _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



December 8, 2003

Representative Steve Kestell
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kestell,

I am writing this letter to encourage your active participation in the passage of Assembly Bill 693. Its passage would greatly simplify Wisconsin's procedure for obtaining clinical licensure in social work.

As the law is currently written, no one, no matter how extensive their education or clinical experience could obtain clinical licensure in our state if that education or experience was obtained after graduation with an MSW degree. Even those of us that hold a Ph.D. in social work could not possibly obtain a clinical license in Wisconsin, no matter how much clinical education and practice we have, if we didn't obtain it prior to getting our master's degree.

The current law seems absurd in the extreme and it is causing confusion and hardship for schools of social work and our students. Many of our masters degree students have said, "I don't particularly want to major in clinical social work, but I have to, because if I don't do it now before I get the masters degree, I'll never be able to get clinical licensure in Wisconsin." Consequently, students interested in child and family welfare, policy, administration, etc. are foregoing their primary interest simply to satisfy the requirements of a poorly written law.

Again, I greatly encourage your participation in resolving this untenable situation.

Regards,



Elizabeth Ann Gammon, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



Jim Doyle
Governor

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
REGULATION & LICENSING**

1400 E Washington Ave
PO Box 8935
Madison WI 53708-8935
Email: web@drf.state.wi.us
Voice: 608-266-2112
FAX: 608-267-0644
TTY: 608-267-2416

Donsia Strong Hill
Secretary



January 14, 2004

State Representative Steve Kestell, Chair
Assembly Committee on Children & Families
Room 17 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Kestell,

The Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board urge the Committee of Children and Families to support AB 693. We see the passage of AB 693 critical at this time.

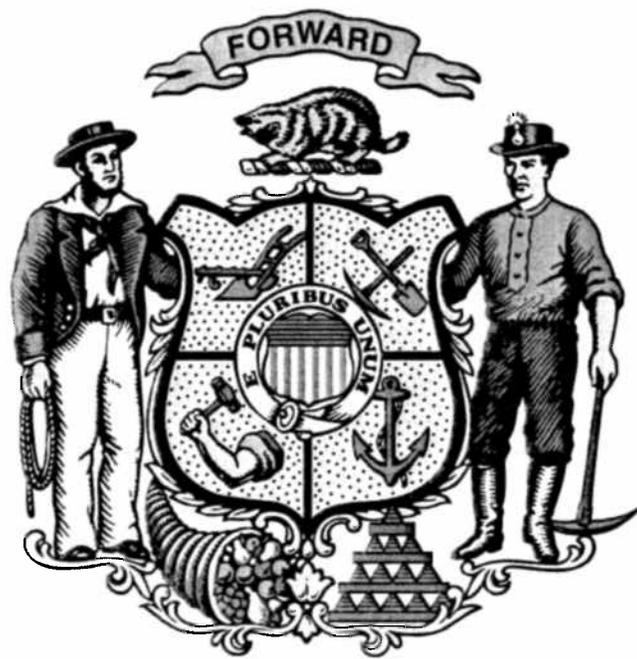
Social Workers who have been practicing in Wisconsin for years and those who come from other states are often barred from becoming Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Language in the current statute limits client access to highly skilled, experienced clinicians, and it discourages clinical social workers from moving to Wisconsin. The barrier is in section 457.08 (4) (b), which requires clinical social workers to have a clinical concentration and two semesters of clinical field experience in their MSW program. There is no allowance for persons to get either the course work or comparable experience post-graduate, thus forcing students in masters programs to choose irrevocably between the clinical and non-clinical tracks while still in school. AB 693 will remove this barrier while in no way diminishing the quality of service to Wisconsin citizens seeking professional help.

Sincerely,

Crystal A. Berg
Jennifer Borup
Ada Williams Parr
George J. Kamps

The Social Worker Section of the
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling and Social Work Examining Board

Crystal A. Berg
Jennifer Borup
Ada Williams Parr
George J. Kamps



January 15, 2004

To: Steve Kestell, Chair, Assembly Committee on Children & Families

From: Marc Herstand, Executive Director

RE: Assembly Bill 693

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 693.

Assembly bill 693 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 AB 693 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.

AB 693 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 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 of this issue.

I would be happy to answer any questions.



TESTIMONY OF CORNELIA M. GORDON-HEMPE, ACSW, LCSW, CISW
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AB 693
JANUARY 15, 2004

Representative Steve Kestell, Chair
Assembly Committee on Children and Families
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

To the Chair:

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. I strongly support this legislation and urge you to pass it.

When 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 when 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 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 experiential 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 intricate 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.

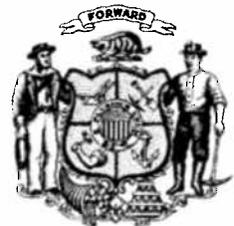
Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you, and thank you for listening.

Yours sincerely,

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



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



TESTIMONY – AB 693

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 AB 693.

The university advocated for Act 80 ^(Chap 457) 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 AB 693. AB 693 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, AB 693 enables them to, at that time, obtain the necessary preparation to do so. This makes good educational sense.

AB 693 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