

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	1/28, 4/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Changes name of State Board of Clinical Social Workers to State Board of Licensed Social Workers. Increases maximum allowable civil penalty action from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per violation. Modifies language for immunity of complainants. Provides technical correction governing abuse reporting for those with mental illness or developmental disabilities. Expands sanction authority by the Board by allowing the Board to maintain jurisdiction over revoked licensees. Provides practice act language for clinical social workers only and exemptions from practice act authority. Provides for a voluntary registration process of social workers with baccalaureate degrees and for voluntary licensure process for non-clinical master's social workers effective January 1, 2011.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- State Board of Clinical Social Workers' authority - a title act versus a practice act
- Recommendation to modify language so that an individual may not use the title "social worker" in any variation or form unless they are a regulated "social worker", as defined
- Definition of "social work" and the Board's authority to revoke a license and prohibit a person whose license had been revoked from engaging in or offering to engage in the practice of social work; scope of work too broad for Board to regulate
- Social workers working for a public entity should not be granted exemption from statutory requirements or held to lesser standard than those working in private industry
- Collective bargaining rights of public employees who perform components of "social work", yet jobs do not require applicant to be a licensed social worker, and ramifications to worker if they choose to be a registered social worker and have their license revoked for reasons unrelated to their employment
- Board lacks authority to revoke educational titles for individuals

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Provides language for practice act authority for clinical social workers only and the exemptions from that authority. Deletes non-clinical definitions, clarifies the use of education titles, and provides for authority over revoked and lapsed licenses for title act Boards. Grants the Board specific authority to sanction those who have been revoked and are no longer licensees; modifies amount of civil penalty action from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per violation. Establishes by rule for two new titles. Modifies language for immunity of complainants. Restores language for Board composition and provides technical correction governing abuse reporting for those with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

**BACKGROUND:** The State of Oregon currently regulates only those individuals utilizing the title of Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Clinical Social Work Associate (CSWA). The Board of Clinical Social Workers currently licenses approximately 3,500 individuals.

Senate Bill 177-A supplements the Board's existing licensure program for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs, who all are at the Masters-level) and Clinical Social Work Associates (CSWAs, those with Masters in Social Work degrees who are working under supervision in preparation for LCSW licensure).

4/2/2009 3:29:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***