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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5166**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill eliminates the requirement for a master social worker license applicant to pass the Association of Social Work Boards' (ASWB) master's level examination, or other examination the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner prescribes. (Existing law temporarily suspended this requirement between June 7, 2023, and January 1, 2026.)

It correspondingly eliminates a provision that authorizes DPH to issue a 120-day temporary permit that allows master social worker license applicants who have a master's degree from a social work program but have not yet taken the licensure examination, to practice under professional supervision.

Under current law and the bill, applicants for a master social worker license still must have a master's degree from a social work program that is (1) accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), (2) in-state and has candidate status with CSWE during or after the 2024 spring semester and before the 2028 spring semester, or (3) deemed equivalent by CSWE, if educated outside of the U.S. and its territories. Applicants for licensure by endorsement must be licensed or certified as a master social worker in good standing in another state or jurisdiction with requirements substantially similar or higher than Connecticut's.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Social Work Licensure***

By law, Connecticut licenses social workers at two levels: master social worker and clinical social worker. Applicants for a clinical social

worker license must (1) have a doctorate or master's degree from a CSWE-accredited program or, if educated outside of the U.S. and its territories, a program deemed equivalent by CSWE; (2) complete 3,000 hours post-master's social work experience with at least 100 hours supervised by a licensed clinical social worker or certified independent social worker; and (3) pass the ASWB's clinical level examination.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 6 (03/02/2026)