

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1136

5 By: Representative Cavenaugh  
6 By: Senators Flippo, Irvin  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REMOVE LICENSURE REQUIREMENT OF "GOOD MORAL  
10 CHARACTER" FROM THE SOCIAL WORK LICENSING ACT; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14 TO REMOVE THE LICENSURE REQUIREMENT OF  
15 "GOOD MORAL CHARACTER" FROM THE SOCIAL  
16 WORK LICENSING ACT.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-103-306(b)(1), concerning the  
23 qualifications for a licensed master social worker, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 (b)(1) The board shall issue a Licensed Master Social Worker license  
26 to an applicant who qualifies as follows:

27 (A) Has a master's degree in social work from a program  
28 accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian  
29 Association for Social Work Education, or has received before June 17, 1986,  
30 a master's degree in a social work program from an accredited educational  
31 institution;

32 (B) Has passed an examination approved by the board for  
33 this purpose and level of practice;

34 (C) Has applied for a criminal background check and meets  
35 the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-103-307;

36 (D) ~~Has good moral character;~~



1                   ~~(E)~~ Is physically and mentally competent to provide social  
2 work services with reasonable skill and safety;

3                   ~~(F)~~(E) Is not afflicted by a mental or physical disease or  
4 condition that would impair the applicant's competency to provide social work  
5 services;

6                   ~~(G)~~(F) Has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or  
7 been found guilty of a felony listed under § 17-3-102 or criminal offense  
8 involving violence, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, breach of client trust, or  
9 abuse of the vulnerable;

10                   ~~(H)~~(G) Does not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that the  
11 use affects the applicant's professional competency; and

12                   ~~(I)~~(H) Has not engaged in fraud or deceit in making the  
13 application.  
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15           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-103-306(c)(1), concerning the  
16 qualifications for a licensed master social worker, is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18           (c)(1) The board shall issue a license as a Licensed Certified Social  
19 Worker to an applicant who qualifies as follows:

20                   (A) Has a master's degree in social work from a program  
21 accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian  
22 Association for Social Work Education, or has received before June 17, 1986,  
23 a master's degree in a social work program from an accredited educational  
24 institution;

25                   (B)(i) Has at least twenty-four (24) months of supervised  
26 social work experience under a licensed certified social worker.

27                               (ii) The supervised social work experience required  
28 under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall include at least four  
29 thousand (4,000) hours in a social work position under the supervision of a  
30 licensed certified social worker or a social worker whom the board determines  
31 to have qualifications equivalent to those required of a licensed certified  
32 social worker;

33                   (C) Has passed an examination approved by the board for  
34 this purpose and level of practice;

35                   (D) Has applied for a criminal background check and meets  
36 the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-103-307;

- 1                   (E) ~~Has good moral character;~~
- 2                   ~~(F)~~ Is physically and mentally competent to provide social
- 3 work services with reasonable skill and safety;
- 4                   ~~(G)~~(F) Is not affected by a mental or physical disease or
- 5 condition that would impair the applicant’s competency to provide social work
- 6 services;
- 7                   ~~(H)~~(G) Has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or
- 8 been found guilty of a felony listed under § 17-3-102 or criminal offense
- 9 involving violence, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, breach of client trust, or
- 10 abuse of the vulnerable;
- 11                   ~~(I)~~(H) Does not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that the
- 12 use affects the applicant’s professional competency; and
- 13                   ~~(J)~~(I) Has not engaged in fraud or deceit in making the
- 14 application.

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