

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2384**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James J. O'Day*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to define clinical social work practice.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                     | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:     | DATE ADDED:      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>James J. O'Day</i>     | <i>14th Worcester</i> | <i>2/17/2021</i> |
| <i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i> | <i>27th Middlesex</i> | <i>3/8/2021</i>  |
| <i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>  | <i>9th Middlesex</i>  | <i>4/6/2021</i>  |

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By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2384) of James J. O'Day, Erika Uytterhoeven and Thomas M. Stanley for legislation to define clinical social work practice. Public Health.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to define clinical social work practice.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 130 of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the  
2 2018 General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the definition “The independent practice  
3 of clinical social work” and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

4 “Clinical social work practice”, social work performed by Master's level social workers  
5 applying evidence informed theories and methods in the comprehensive assessment and  
6 treatment of cognitive, affective, and behavioral disorders and distress arising from physical,  
7 environmental, psychological, emotional or relational conditions. The scope of clinical social  
8 work practice includes, but is not limited to: assessment; evaluation; psychotherapy and  
9 counseling for individuals, families, and groups; client-centered advocacy; consultation and  
10 supervision; and case management services. Clinical social workers practice within an ecological  
11 and ethically-principled framework in the areas of competence their education and training  
12 reflects. Social work practice is multi-systemic, trauma-informed, and committed to public health

- 13 and well-being. Social work's commitment to racial, economic, and social justice is central to the
- 14 National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.