

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1985-1986 86/2

3244 HESS SB 227 100



RECORDS CERTIFICATION



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James O. Smith
Signature of Camera Operator

7/25/89
Date

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CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska opposes Senate Bill 227 and all other current bills relating to the licensure of social workers.

SB 227, in light of present circumstances, clearly discriminates against Alaska Natives and tribal organizations.

FIRST: There is no MSW program in the state of Alaska. Master workers would either have to be "imported" from outside the state or those Alaska citizens interested in obtaining a master's license would have to have the wherewithal to travel outside, pay tuition and other educational costs, and maintain themselves for two years while obtaining their MSW degree.

Year in and year out the Division of Family and Youth Services has had no Tlingit or Haida social worker in Southeast Alaska. This bill, if passed, would most certainly assure that this situation would continue into the foreseeable future.

Fifty percent of the children in custody of the state are Alaska Native. Sixty-four percent of the children placed outside their homes in SE Alaska are Native.

SECOND: The grandfathering provisions of this bill will not help most of the Alaska Native workers now practicing in social services. It will take care of most of the social workers employed by the Division of Family and Youth Services, who can be provided supervision by personnel already eligible for licensure (MSW's). Many tribal agencies, through federal and state contracts, now provide culturally relevant services with supervision provided by staff who would not be eligible for licensure. Many highly effective workers would not be eligible for professional licensure **EVEN IF A LICENSED SUPERVISOR WERE AVAILABLE** because they did not have a bachelor's degree in a related field. This despite the fact that they may have been in this work for 15 years and more, providing effective culturally relevant social work services to their tribal members.

The insidiousness of this bill is the fact that they wouldn't simply be denied the right to be called social worker, if they tried to render these services to their people they could be jailed.

THIRD: Even though the percentage of Alaska Native to non-Native population in the service area is by far the highest in the nation, no tribal entity was involved, or was asked to be involved, in the preparation of this bill. It is reasonable to assume that the regulations promulgated and the examination that will be administered will have little or no relevancy to the culture which will be the dominant recipient of these services. It is reasonable because the framers of this bill give more credence to the credentials of a recent MSW graduate of, say, an eastern college who has never laid eyes on an Eskimo, Aleut or Alaskan Indian than to one who may not have the diploma but has practiced social work for 15 years within his or her culture.

The Tlingit and Haida Central Council is not opposed to professionalism. It certainly has no problem with ethical standards. The Central Council simply questions why the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, with minimal Native membership, has assumed the mantle of standard setting and rule making all by itself.

The Central Council has some suggestions:

Establish an MSW program in Alaska available to all Alaskans.

Have the curriculum include instruction in the Alaska Native cultures, mores and traditions as they apply to social work service delivery.

Have the examination reflect this cultural relevancy.

Provide for grandfathering provisions which recognize competency within the Alaska Native community, not just within the dominant culture.

And next time involve the Alaska Native community in the planning.

As it now stands, this is a very discriminatory bill.

*Noway
see me
get a better
copy*

DATE: 02/06/94 TIME: 10:42
TOPIC: FINAL STATE - SOCIAL WORK

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

FINAL STATE

DATE: 02-06-94
SITE COORDINATOR: ELEN ALLEN-REDA
HOUSE N.E.P.C.
SOCIAL WORK

TO BEGAN: 10:45
TO ENDED: 11:07
MODERATOR: LINDA LACH

NAME REPRESENTING: ADDRESS PHONE

RECEIVED
RONALD HURD'S OFFICE BOX 314 COPPER CENTER ARIZONA

03/07/86 TIME 19-54
 03/07/86 TIME 19-54
 03/07/86 TIME 19-54
 03/07/86 TIME 19-54

***** TYPAL T/O STATE *****

 ADDRESS: _____

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
1. DON WHEELER	P.O. BOX 70414, FTX 99701	452-3722
2. DON WHEELER	201 1ST AVE, FTX 99701	452-3257
3. MARION WINDSBER	PO BX 20546, FTX 99702	457-5714
4. DAN CARLOS	PO BX 30234, COLLEGE 99702	479-5743
5. ELIZABETH WATSON	513 1ST AVE, FTX 99701	452-1340
6. JOYCE WATSON	513 1ST AVE, FTX 99701	452-1140
7. ED BOSSON	PO BX 21324, FTX 99702	479-6314
8. DONALD BURMAN	1100 PUGH LANE, FTX 99702	479-9127
9. JOHN ROOPER	7124 TOWNING, UAF, FTX 99775	474-6953
10. DEBBIE PATRICK-BILE	PO BX 1544, FTX 99707	456-4729
11. JUDITH WINTERT	1314 BEGER ROAD, FTX 99709	456-4753

 TIME START: 11:30 P TIME END: 11:32
 RECEIVED: _____
 TOTAL: _____

DATE: 07/07/88 TIME 17:00

***** DELTA FINAL TO STATE *****

DATE: MARCH 2, 1984

SUBJECT: HOUSE NEWS

SUBJECT: SS 207, HD 317 - SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE ...

SITE: DELTA

LOCAL MODERATOR: LINDA HARRIS

TELETYPE
NONE

OBSERVED
NONE

TESTIFIED: 0
OBSERVED: 0
TOTAL: 0

PLEASE NOTE - DELTA'S SSC SVC CALLED AND ASKED TO BE ADDED TO THIS TO AND THEN NEVER SHOWED UP

EDM

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

DATE:

TIME: 08 35

ICANC

FINAL STATUS: IN PROCESS - NR 234, 217

DATE: 03/07/84 TIME: 08 35

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

NAME REPRESENTING ADDRESS PHONE

LEON BROWN 3700 LANTANA DR. ANCH. 561-2117
DAN BROWN 3700 LANTANA DR. ANCH. 561-2117

NAME REPRESENTING ADDRESS PHONE
RONDA JOHNSON 3700 LANTANA DR. ANCH. 561-2117
DEBBIE JESS 1100 S. HALLWAY RD. ANCH. 345-2675
ANN STOCKMAN 2500 BERRY RD. ANCH. 250-7575

NAME REPRESENTING ADDRESS PHONE
LOUISE ROSONI/ANCH. FOSTER PARENTS ASSOC. 353-2223
GARY LICHTENSTEIN 410 W. 2ND AVE. ANCH. 250-7231
ANNIE EDNER 2500 PROVIDENCE DR. ANCH. 561-1533
BILL JESS 1100 S. HALLWAY RD. ANCH. 345-2675
JOANNE DEARY 7200 STAMP CIR. ANCH. 344-1070
TALLY INEELAND 3422 GLACIER ANCH. 357-1234
MARGARET HOLFE P. O. BOX 1372 ANCH. 272-7698

WANTED TO TESTIFY 07
TESTIFIED: 03
OBSERVED: 03
TOTAL: 13
TIME START: 4:45
TIME END: 6:37

REPORTED TO: TEAM

DATE: 03/07/81 TIME: 09:15
TYPE: TCHAT
PROJECT: FHL STTS 2/6 MESS SOC SVCS
DATE TIME: 03/07/81 TIME: 09:15

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*** FINAL T/C STATE ***

DATE: 3/7/81
SITE: M-2 LIO
SPONSOR: M/MESS
SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES: MP 317, 424, SD 207
LOCAL OPERATOR: WIM MATHIS

NAME REPRESENTING	ADDRESS	PHONE
1. KIRBY SUMNER	SDS BOX 7026 PALMER 99645	745-7777
2. YEN TALLEY	SDS BOX 9555 PALMER 99645	745-3740

OBSERVED:

1. TOM WHISTONE	SDS BOX 7477	PALMER 99645	745-2036
2. PENNY VOIT	POB 871350	MARILLA 92687	376-2672
3. LOIS WOODEN	POB 871068	MARILLA 99687	376-2008
4. BOB EDWINE	POB 874693	MARILLA 92687	376-2411

TESTIFIED: _____
OBSERVED: _____
TOTAL: _____

TIME START: 4:30
TIME END: _____

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* TELETYPE TO: TOLNM
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* ORIGINAL
* 03/07/86 TIME: 00:10
* 02501
* INCIDENT FINAL STATE
* PRINT DATE: 03/07/86 TIME: 00:10
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*** FINAL STATE ***

DATE 03/07/86
TIME 00:10
02501
SUBJECT SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE

TESTIFIED
L. BARON BARNARD BOX 1508, COLLECTNA 003-3676

TOTAL TESTIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR: STJMU

DATE: 03/06/84 TIME: 17:00
SUBJECT: ELAINE BOND
EVENT DATE: 02/04/84 TIME: 17:00

TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: ELAINE BOND

FINAL STATE 3/4/84 WENESS SOCIAL WORK

PARTICIPATING:

1. SUZIE WITTMALF, 4004 KOENIG, ANCHORAGE 543-4077

UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE (LEFT FOR AIRPORT)

4. JOHN TEGAN, 2822 DENALI, SUITE 905, ANCHORAGE 274-3927

OBSERVING IN SITKA:

1. HANNETTE LAROCKI, 100 TENCASS DRIVE, SITKA 944-8324

TOTAL: 3 WITNESSES 2 OBSERVERS

Cramer -
3/26/86

Original sponsor: Fahrenkamp by request

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of social work and
7 establishing the Board of Social Worker Examiners;
8 and providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to assure the consu-
11 mer that persons providing services under the title "social worker" have
12 completed professional social work education or training, adhere to a code
13 of professional ethics, and are subject to licensure by the Board of Social
14 Work Examiners.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
16 (25) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

17 * Sec. 3. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
18 (21) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010) --
19 June 30, 1990.

20 * Sec. 4. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21 CHAPTER 87. SOCIAL WORKERS.

22 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS.

23 Sec. 08.87.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD. There is
24 created a Board of Social Worker Examiners consisting of five members,
25 including three licensed master social workers, one of whom is li-
26 censed as an independent social worker, one licensed bachelor social
27 worker, and one public member. The public member may not be licensed
28 as a social worker, employed by a licensed social worker, or have a
29 financial interest in the social work profession. To the extent

1 possible members shall be appointed from different geographic regions
2 of the state. A member who has served two successive full terms may
3 not be reappointed until four years after the expiration of the second
4 term.

5 Sec. 08.87.020. TERM OF OFFICE. Each member of the board serves
6 for a term of four years and until the member's successor is appointed
7 and qualified. An appointment to a vacancy is for the unexpired term.

8 Sec. 08.87.030. BOARD MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least
9 once a year.

10 Sec. 08.87.040. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The board shall elect
11 from among its members a chairperson and a secretary. Officers serve
12 for a term not exceeding two years.

13 Sec. 08.87.050. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may
14 remove a member of the board for cause. Unexcused absences from
15 meetings are cause for removal as determined by the board.

16 Sec. 08.87.060. PER DIEM AND TRAVEL. Board members receive no
17 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses author-
18 ized for members of boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

19 Sec. 08.87.070. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall

20 (1) provide for the examination of eligible applicants for
21 licenses under this chapter;

22 (2) submit an annual report of its proceedings to the
23 governor, including recommended changes to this chapter and a state-
24 ment of money received and disbursed;

25 (3) adopt nationally recognized specialty designations for
26 the private practice of social work and authorize speciality desig-
27 nations on licenses issued under this chapter;

28 (4) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions against
29 a person who violates this chapter, an order of the board, or a

1 regulation of the board;

2 (5) adopt regulations relating to requirements for the
3 supervision of persons engaged in social work under this chapter who
4 are not licensed master social workers;

5 (6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued compe-
6 tency before a license is renewed;

7 (7) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this
8 chapter.

9 Sec. 08.87.00. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The Administrative
10 Procedure Act (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under
11 this chapter.

12 ARTICLE 2. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

13 Sec. 08.87.100. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) A person is
14 eligible for a license as a bachelor social worker (LBSW) if the
15 person

16 (1) is in good professional standing and is fit to practice
17 social work as determined under regulations of the board;

18 (2) has satisfactorily completed the state examination for
19 the license;

20 (3) provides three professional references to the board;

21 (4) has a bachelor's degree in social work from a school
22 with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work
23 Education.

24 (b) A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker
25 (LMSW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this
26 section and has a master's degree in social work from a school with a
27 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
28 tion.

29 (c) A person is eligible for a license as an independent social

or a Bach. degree in a
Scientific, Scientific Field
related to animal work

1 regulation of the board;

2 (5) adopt regulations relating to requirements for the
3 supervision of persons engaged in social work under this chapter who
4 are not licensed master social workers;

5 (6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued compe-
6 tency before a license is renewed;

7 (7) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this
8 chapter.

9 Sec. 08.87.080. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The Administrative
10 Procedure Act (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under
11 this chapter.

12 ARTICLE 2. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

13 Sec. 08.87.100. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) A person is
14 eligible for a license as a bachelor social worker (LBSW) if the
15 person

16 (1) is in ;
17 social work as determ:

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19 the license;

20 (3) provide

21 (4) has a
22 with a social work pr
23 Education.

*or a Bach. degree in a
behavioral sciences field
related to social work*

24 (b) A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker
25 (LMSW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this
26 section and has a master's degree in social work from a school with a
27 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
28 tion.

29 (c) A person is eligible for a license as an independent social

1 worker (LISW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of
2 this section, has a master's degree in social work from a school with
3 a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
4 tion, and has completed at least 24 months of supervised post-graduate
5 experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in which
6 the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

7 Sec. 08.87.110. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a
8 bachelor, master, or independent social worker may provide services
9 that enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social func-
10 tioning whether impaired by physical, environmental, or emotional
11 factors, guided by professional social work ethics, knowledge and
12 intervention methods.

13 (b) A social worker may practice psychotherapy only if the
14 social worker is licensed as an independent social worker with a
15 clinical specialty or as a master social worker and is employed and
16 supervised in a clinical setting.

17 (c) A social worker may practice social work autonomously only
18 if

19 (1) the person is licensed as an independent social worker;

20 (2) the board has approved the specialty in which the
21 person may engage as a private practitioner and authorizes designation
22 of the speciality on the person's license;

23 (3) the license bearing a designation of speciality is
24 prominently displayed in the place the person engages in private
25 practice; and

26 (4) the person limits the private practice of social work
27 to the designated specialty.

28 (d) This section does not limit or affect the activities or
29 practice of a person who is not licensed under this chapter.

1 Sec. 08.87.120. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall provide
2 for licensing a person as a bachelor, master or independent social
3 worker without examination if the person

4 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a
5 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
6 tion;

7 (2) has an active license to practice social work in an-
8 other licensing jurisdiction with requirements at the time of the
9 original licensure that were similar to or higher than those of this
10 state;

11 (3) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review
12 procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a professional
13 social worker association or regulatory authority;

14 (4) has not failed the examination of this state;

15 (5) has not previously had a license to practice social
16 work revoked in this or another jurisdiction;

17 (6) submits proof of continued competence as required by
18 regulation of the board; and

19 (7) pays all required fees.

20 Sec. 08.87.130. LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIRED. A license issued
21 under this chapter shall be renewed in accordance with AS 08.01.100.

22 Sec. 08.87.140. FEES. An applicant for examination, reexamina-
23 tion, or issuance or renewal of a license shall pay the fees estab-
24 lished by the department under AS 08.01.065.

25 ARTICLE 3. PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES.

26 Sec. 08.87.200. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR USE OF TITLE. (a) Unless
27 licensed under this chapter, a person may not use the title "social
28 worker" or a title, designation, or device indicating or tending to
29 indicate that the person is a social worker. A person may not use the

1 letters "LBSW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as a
2 bachelor social worker under this chapter. A person may not use the
3 letters "LMSW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as a
4 master social worker under this chapter. A person may not use the
5 letters "LISW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as an
6 independent social worker under this chapter. Except as provided in
7 (b) of this section, a person may not use the title "social worker
8 intern" or "social worker student."

9 (b) A student enrolled in an accredited social work program may
10 use the title "social worker intern" or "social worker student" if the
11 person's activities constitute a part of the person's supervised
12 course of study.

13 (c) A person who uses a title other than the titles included in
14 (a) and (b) of this section is not subject to this chapter.

15 Sec. 08.87.210. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A social
16 worker licensed under this chapter may not disclose information pro-
17 vided to the social worker by a client in the course of their profes-
18 sional contact. This prohibition does not apply if the

19 (1) client provides written consent to the social worker to
20 reveal the communication;

21 (2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal
22 representative provides written consent to the social worker to reveal
23 the communication;

24 (3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy
25 on the client's life provides written consent to the social worker to
26 reveal the communication;

27 (4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed
28 or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

29 (5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the

1 client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the social work
2 reveals the communication only during the course of an official exami-
3 nation, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the
4 crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

5 (6) client brings charges against the social worker and the
6 social worker reveals the communication only as necessary to defend
7 the charges;

8 (7) information is revealed as part of the discovery of
9 evidence related to a court proceeding or introduced in evidence in
10 suit, action, or proceeding in court.

11 (8) social worker is collaborating or consulting with
12 professional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the
13 client;

14 (9) communication discloses information that the social
15 worker is required by state or federal laws or regulations to dis-
16 close.

17 Sec. 08.87.220. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS.
18 After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction
19 on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the
20 licensee

21 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional
22 misrepresentation;

23 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-
24 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in
25 professional activities;

26 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-
27 ing manner;

28 (4) has been convicted of a crime that has a substantial
29 relationship to the licensee's activities and services or that affect

1 the licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

2 (5) intentionally or negligently engaged in or permitted
3 the performance of social work by persons under the licensee's super-
4 vision that does not conform to minimum professional standards regard-
5 less of whether actual injury occurred;

6 (6) failed to comply with this chapter, with a regulation
7 adopted under this chapter, or with an order of the board;

8 (7) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

9 (A) professional incompetence;

10 (B) addiction or dependence on alcohol or other drugs
11 that may endanger the public by impairing the licensee's ability
12 to practice;

13 (C) physical or mental disability;

14 (8) engaged in lewd conduct in connection with the delivery
15 of professional service;

16 (9) has been held liable for malpractice in a civil action;

17 (10) has had a license revoked in another jurisdiction.

18 Sec. 08.87.230. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) If it finds that a
19 licensee has committed an act set out in AS 08.87.220, the board may
20 impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

21 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

22 (2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;

23 (3) censure a licensee;

24 (4) issue a letter of reprimand to the licensee;

25 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the
26 licensee to

27 (A) report regularly to the board upon matters involv-
28 ing the basis of probation;

29 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;

1 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-
2 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas that are
3 the basis of probation;

4 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a
5 licensee;

6 (7) refuse to renew a license.

7 (b) The board may withdraw probationary status if it finds that
8 the deficiencies that required the sanction have been remedied.

9 (c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final
10 hearing or during the appeal process if the board finds that the
11 licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and
12 safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license
13 is suspended under this section is entitled to a hearing by the board
14 no later than seven days after the effective date of the order. The
15 person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of compe-
16 tent jurisdiction.

17 (d) The board may reinstate a license that has been suspended or
18 revoked if the board finds after a hearing that the applicant is able
19 to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

20 (e) The board shall seek consistency in the application of
21 disciplinary sanctions. The board shall explain significant departure
22 from prior decisions involving similar situations in findings of fact
23 or orders.

24 Sec. 08.87.240. CRIMINAL PENALTY. A person who violates AS 08.-
25 87.200 or 08.87.210 of this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemea-
26 nor.

27 Sec. 08.87.250. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The board may apply to the
28 superior court for an order enjoining a person subject to this chapter
29 or whose license is suspended, revoked, or expired from violating this

1 chapter.

2 ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

3 Sec. 08.87.450. EXEMPTION. Employees of a regional or village
4 nonprofit corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1628 (Alaska
5 Native Claims Settlement Act) are exempt from this chapter.

6 Sec. 08.87.500. DEFINITION. In this chapter "board" means the
7 Board of Social Worker Examiners.

8 * Sec. 5. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
9 (53) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

10 * Sec. 6. Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act the
11 governor shall appoint initial members to the Board of Social Worker Exam-
12 iners. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.010 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act,
13 initial members must consist of three persons who have a master's degree in
14 social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the
15 Council on Social Work Education, at least one of whom is engaged in the
16 private practice of social work, one person with a bachelor's degree in
17 social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the
18 Council on Social Work Education, and one public member. Notwithstanding
19 AS 08.87.020 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act and AS 39.05.055(3), one
20 initial member shall serve a one-year term, one initial member shall serve
21 a two-year term, one initial member shall serve a three-year term, and two
22 initial members shall serve four-year terms, as determined by the governor.

23 * Sec. 7. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.87.100(a) as enacted in sec. of
24 this Act, a person may apply for and receive a license as a bachelor social
25 worker if the person

26 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social
27 work program that is not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
28 or a bachelor's or master's degree in a social sciences field related to
29 social work as defined by the board, and has been practicing under the

1 title "social worker"

2 (A) for at least 24 consecutive months before July 1,
3 1988; or

4 (B) before July 1, 1988 and is employed on the date of
5 application for a license in the administration of an agency that
6 has employees who use the title "social worker";

7 (2) meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(a)(1), (3) and (4);

8 or

9 (3) has been practicing social work under the supervision of a
10 person eligible to be licensed under this Act for at least two years.

11 (b) A person who does not meet the requirement under AS 08.87.100-
12 (a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(b) may apply
13 for and receive a license as a master social worker.

14 (c) A person who does not meet the requirements under AS 08.87.-
15 100(a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(c) may apply
16 for and receive a license as an independent social worker.

17 (d) An application for a license under this section must be filed
18 before July 1, 1988.

19 * Sec. 8. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.200, a person practicing social work
20 on July 1, 1986, may use a title and letters as part of the title that
21 indicate that the person is a social worker until June 30, 1988, even if
22 the person is not licensed under AS 08.87.100 or 08.87.120.

23 * Sec. 9. This Act takes effect July 1, 1986.
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29



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POUCHV
JUNEAU, AK 99811
465-3759

CHANGES IN HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB 227 - AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK AND ESTABLISHING THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS.

- Page 4, lines 28-29 Adds a new subsection (d) to provide that this act does not limit the activities or practice of a person not licensed under this chapter.
- Page 6, lines 13-14 Adds a new subsection (c) to provide that a person using a title other than the titles "social worker", "social worker student" or "social worker intern" is not subject to this chapter.
- Page 7, lines 8-10 Section (7), relating to confidentiality in court proceedings, is restated to make it clear that the section does not change existing court rules.
- Page 9, line 28 Adds a new provision "subject to this chapter" to clarify that violations of this chapter only apply to those subject to licensure by the board of social worker examiners.
- Page 10, lines 3-5 Adds a new section, EXEMPTION, to the bill, which provides that any person employed by a regional or village non-profit corporation organized under ANCSA is exempt from the chapter.

Original sponsor: Fahrenkamp by request

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of social work and
7 establishing the Board of Social Worker Examiners;
8 and providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to assure the consu-
11 mer that persons providing services under the title "social worker" have
12 completed professional social work education or training, adhere to a code
13 of professional ethics, and are subject to licensure by the Board of Social
14 Work Examiners.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
16 (25) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

17 * Sec. 3. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
18 (21) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010) --
19 June 30, 1990.

20 * Sec. 4. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21 CHAPTER 87. SOCIAL WORKERS.

22 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS.

23 Sec. 08.87.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD. There is
24 created a Board of Social Worker Examiners consisting of five members,
25 including three licensed master social workers, one of whom is li-
26 censed as an independent social worker, one licensed bachelor social
27 worker and one public member. The public member may not be licensed
28 as a social worker, employed by a licensed social worker, or have a
29 financial interest in the social work profession. To the extent

1 possible members shall be appointed from different geographic regions
2 of the state. A member who has served two successive full terms may
3 not be reappointed until four years after the expiration of the second
4 term.

5 Sec. 08.87.020. TERM OF OFFICE. Each member of the board serves
6 for a term of four years and until the member's successor is appointed
7 and qualified. An appointment to a vacancy is for the unexpired term.

8 Sec. 08.87.030. BOARD MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least
9 once a year.

10 Sec. 08.87.040. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The board shall elect
11 from among its members a chairperson and a secretary. Officers serve
12 for a term not exceeding two years.

13 Sec. 08.87.050. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may
14 remove a member of the board for cause. Unexcused absences from
15 meetings are cause for removal as determined by the board.

16 Sec. 08.87.060. PER DIEM AND TRAVEL. Board members receive no
17 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses author-
18 ized for members of boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

19 Sec. 08.87.070. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall

20 (1) provide for the examination of eligible applicants for
21 licenses under this chapter;

22 (2) submit an annual report of its proceedings to the
23 governor, including recommended changes to this chapter and a state-
24 ment of money received and disbursed;

25 (3) adopt nationally recognized specialty designations for
26 the private practice of social work and authorize speciality desig-
27 nations on licenses issued under this chapter;

28 (4) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions against
29 a person who violates this chapter, an order of the board, or a

1 regulation of the board;

2 (5) adopt regulations relating to requirements for the
3 supervision of persons engaged in social work under this chapter who
4 are not licensed master social workers;

5 (6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued compe-
6 tency before a license is renewed;

7 (7) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this
8 chapter.

9 Sec. 08.87.080. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The Administrative
10 Procedure Act (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under
11 this chapter.

12 ARTICLE 2. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

13 Sec. 08.87.100. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) A person is
14 eligible for a license as a bachelor social worker (LBSW) if the
15 person

16 (1) is in good professional standing and is fit to practice
17 social work as determined under regulations of the board;

18 (2) has satisfactorily completed the state examination for
19 the license;

20 (3) provides three professional references to the board;

21 (4) has a bachelor's degree in social work from a school
22 with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work
23 Education.

24 (b) A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker
25 (LMSW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this
26 section and has a master's degree in social work from a school with a
27 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
28 tion.

29 (c) A person is eligible for a license as an independent social

1 worker (LISW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of
2 this section, has a master's degree in social work from a school with
3 a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
4 tion, and has completed at least 24 months of supervised post-graduate
5 experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in which
6 the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

7 Sec. 08.87.110. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a
8 bachelor, master, or independent social worker may provide services
9 that enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social func-
10 tioning whether impaired by physical, environmental, or emotional
11 factors, guided by professional social work ethics, knowledge and
12 intervention methods.

13 (b) A social worker may practice psychotherapy only if the
14 social worker is licensed as an independent social worker with a
15 clinical specialty or as a master social worker and is employed and
16 supervised in a clinical setting.

17 (c) A social worker may practice social work autonomously only
18 if

19 (1) the person is licensed as an independent social worker;

20 (2) the board has approved the specialty in which the
21 person may engage as a private practitioner and authorizes designation
22 of the speciality on the person's license;

23 (3) the license bearing a designation of speciality is
24 prominently displayed in the place the person engages in private
25 practice; and

26 (4) the person limits the private practice of social work
27 to the designated specialty.

28 (d) This section does not limit or affect the activities or
29 practice of a person who is not licensed under this chapter.

1 Sec. 08.87.120. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall provide
2 for licensing a person as a bachelor, master or independent social
3 worker without examination if the person

4 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a
5 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Educa-
6 tion;

7 (2) has an active license to practice social work in an-
8 other licensing jurisdiction with requirements at the time of the
9 original licensure that were similar to or higher than those of this
10 state;

11 (3) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review
12 procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a professional
13 social worker association or regulatory authority;

14 (4) has not failed the examination of this state;

15 (5) has not previously had a license to practice social
16 work revoked in this or another jurisdiction;

17 (6) submits proof of continued competence as required by
18 regulation of the board; and

19 (7) pays all required fees.

20 Sec. 08.87.130. LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIRED. A license issued
21 under this chapter shall be renewed in accordance with AS 08.01.100.

22 Sec. 08.87.140. FEES. An applicant for examination, reexamina-
23 tion, or issuance or renewal of a license shall pay the fees estab-
24 lished by the department under AS 08.01.065.

25 ARTICLE 3. PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES.

26 Sec. 08.87.200. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR USE OF TITLE. (a) Unless
27 licensed under this chapter, a person may not use the title "social
28 worker" or a title, designation, or device indicating or tending to
29 indicate that the person is a social worker. A person may not use the

1 letters "LBSW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as a
2 bachelor social worker under this chapter. A person may not use the
3 letters "LMSW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as a
4 master social worker under this chapter. A person may not use the
5 letters "LISW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as an
6 independent social worker under this chapter. Except as provided in
7 (b) of this section, a person may not use the title "social worker
8 intern" or "social worker student."

9 (b) A student enrolled in an accredited social work program may
10 use the title "social worker intern" or "social worker student" if the
11 person's activities constitute a part of the person's supervised
12 course of study.

13 (c) A person who uses a title other than the titles included in
14 (a) and (b) of this section is not subject to this chapter.

15 Sec. 08.87.210. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A social
16 worker licensed under this chapter may not disclose information pro-
17 vided to the social worker by a client in the course of their profes-
18 sional contact. This prohibition does not apply if the

19 (1) client provides written consent to the social worker to
20 reveal the communication;

21 (2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal
22 representative provides written consent to the social worker to reveal
23 the communication;

24 (3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy
25 on the client's life provides written consent to the social worker to
26 reveal the communication;

27 (4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed
28 or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

29 (5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the

1 client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the social worker
2 reveals the communication only during the course of an official exam-
3 ination, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the
4 crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

5 (6) client brings charges against the social worker and the
6 social worker reveals the communication only as necessary to defend
7 the charges;

8 (7) information is revealed as part of the discovery of
9 evidence related to a court proceeding or introduced in evidence in a
10 suit, action, or proceeding in court.

11 (8) social worker is collaborating or consulting with
12 professional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the
13 client;

14 (9) communication discloses information that the social
15 worker is required by state or federal laws or regulations to dis-
16 close.

17 Sec. 08.87.220. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANC-
18 TIONS. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction
19 on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the
20 licensee

21 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional
22 misrepresentation;

23 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-
24 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in
25 professional activities;

26 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-
27 ing manner;

28 (4) has been convicted of a crime that has a substantial
29 relationship to the licensee's activities and services or that affects

1 the licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

2 (5) intentionally or negligently engaged in or permitted
3 the performance of social work by persons under the licensee's super-
4 vision that does not conform to minimum professional standards regard-
5 less of whether actual injury occurred;

6 (6) failed to comply with this chapter, with a regulation
7 adopted under this chapter, or with an order of the board;

8 (7) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

9 (A) professional incompetence;

10 (B) addiction or dependence on alcohol or other drugs
11 that may endanger the public by impairing the licensee's ability
12 to practice;

13 (C) physical or mental disability;

14 (8) engaged in lewd conduct in connection with the delivery
15 of professional service;

16 (9) has been held liable for malpractice in a civil action;

17 (10) has had a license revoked in another jurisdiction.

18 Sec. 08.87.230. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) If it finds that a
19 licensee has committed an act set out in AS 08.87.220, the board may
20 impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

21 (1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

22 (2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;

23 (3) censure a licensee;

24 (4) issue a letter of reprimand to the licensee;

25 (5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the
26 licensee to

27 (A) report regularly to the board upon matters involv-
28 ing the basis of probation;

29 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;

1 (C) continue professional education until a satisfac-
2 tory degree of skill has been attained in those areas that are
3 the basis of probation;

4 (6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a
5 licensee;

6 (7) refuse to renew a license.

7 (b) The board may withdraw probationary status if it finds that
8 the deficiencies that required the sanction have been remedied.

9 (c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final
10 hearing or during the appeal process if the board finds that the
11 licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and
12 safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license
13 is suspended under this section is entitled to a hearing by the board
14 no later than seven days after the effective date of the order. The
15 person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of compe-
16 tent jurisdiction.

17 (d) The board may reinstate a license that has been suspended or
18 revoked if the board finds after a hearing that the applicant is able
19 to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

20 (e) The board shall seek consistency in the application of
21 disciplinary sanctions. The board shall explain significant departure
22 from prior decisions involving similar situations in findings of fact
23 or orders.

24 Sec. 08.87.240. CRIMINAL PENALTY. A person who violates AS 08.-
25 87.200 or 08.87.210 of this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemea-
26 nor.

27 Sec. 08.87.250. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The board may apply to the
28 superior court for an order enjoining a person subject to this chapter
29 or whose license is suspended, revoked, or expired from violating this

1 chapter.

2 ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

3 Sec. 08.87.450. EXEMPTION. Employees of a regional or village
4 nonprofit corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1628 (Alaska
5 Native Claims Settlement Act) are exempt from this chapter.

6 Sec. 08.87.500. DEFINITION. In this chapter "board" means the
7 Board of Social Worker Examiners.

8 * Sec. 5. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

9 (53) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

10 * Sec. 6. Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act the
11 governor shall appoint initial members to the Board of Social Worker Exam-
12 iners. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.010 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act,
13 initial members must consist of three persons who have a master's degree in
14 social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the
15 Council on Social Work Education, at least one of whom is engaged in the
16 private practice of social work, one person with a bachelor's degree in
17 social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the
18 Council on Social Work Education, and one public member. Notwithstanding
19 AS 08.87.020 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act, one initial member shall
20 serve a one-year term, one initial member shall serve a two-year term, one
21 initial member shall serve a three-year term, and two initial members shall
22 serve four-year terms, as determined by the governor.

23 * Sec. 7. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.87.100(a) as enacted in sec. 4 of
24 this Act, a person may apply for and receive a license as a bachelor social
25 worker if the person

26 (1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social
27 work program that is not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
28 or a bachelor's or master's degree in a social sciences field related to
29 social work as defined by the board, and has been practicing under the

1 title "social worker" for at least 24 consecutive months before July 1,
2 1988;

3 (2) meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(a)(1), (3) and (4);
4 or

5 (3) has been practicing social work under the supervision of a
6 person eligible to be licensed under this Act for at least two years, and
7 successfully completes the examination required by AS 08.87.100(a)(2).

8 (b) A person who does not meet the requirement under AS 08.87.100-
9 (a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(b) may apply
10 for and receive a license as a master social worker.

11 (c) A person who does not meet the requirements under AS 08.87.-
12 100(a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(c) may apply
13 for and receive a license as an independent social worker.

14 (d) An application for a license under this section must be filed
15 before July 1, 1988.

16 * Sec. 8. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.200, a person practicing social work
17 on July 1, 1986, may use a title and letters as part of the title that
18 indicate that the person is a social worker until June 30, 1988, even if
19 the person is not licensed under AS 08.87.100 or 08.87.120.

20 * Sec. 9. This Act takes effect July 1, 1986.
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Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Vice Chairman
JOE JOSEPHSON
PAUL FISCHER
EDNA ARMSTRONG-DE VRIES



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Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services

February 12, 1986

Representative Max Gruenberg, Co-Chair
Representative Niilo Koponen, Co-Chair
House Committee on Health, Education and
Social Services
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Max and Niilo:

On February 4, 1986 the Senate passed SB 227, relating to licensure of social workers, by an overwhelming margin of votes, 19-1. The bill now rests in your committee and I am writing to request that it be scheduled for public hearing.

As you know, the practice of social work is not currently addressed in state law and anyone, regardless of education or training, can represent him or herself as a social worker. Licensing will enhance consumer protection by enabling the public to identify social workers who've met minimum education and experience standards and will provide a mechanism to monitor quality.

In my mind, the quality of social work service being provided in both the public and private sectors is paramount in the state's effort to protect our children from abuse and neglect. I urge your consideration of SB 227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bettye".

Bettye Fahrenkamp
Chairman

BF/ss

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Vice Chairman
JOE JOSEPHSON
PAUL FISCHER
EDNA ARMSTRONG DE VRIES



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Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services

February 12, 1986

BILL ANALYSIS

CS SB 227 (Fin), An Act relating to the practice of social work and establishing the Board of Social Work Examiners.

Section 08.03.010(c) Sunset Provision

The Board would come up for sunset review in 1990.

Section 08.87.010 Board Make-up

The Board would be composed of 2 master social workers (MSW), 1 independent social worker (ISW), 1 bachelor social worker (BSW), and 1 public member. The Board would meet at least once a year.

Section 08.87.070 Duties of the Board

Duties would include: examinations, setting standards for specialty designations, setting supervision standards, and establishing disciplinary sanctions.

Section 08.87.100 Licensing

<u>Bachelor's (LBSW)</u>	<u>Master's (LMSW)</u>	<u>Independent (LISW)</u>
Good professional standing	Same	Same
Passed state examination	Same	Same
3 references	Same	Same
Bachelor's degree in social work from school with program accredited by Council on Social Work Education	Master's degree in social work	Master's degree in social work
Supervision may be required by regulation of the Board	None	Must have completed at least 24 months of supervised post graduate experience approved by the board.

Section 08.87.110 Scope of Practice

"Enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social functioning."

Section 08.87.110(b) Practice of Psychotherapy

Limited to independent social workers with a clinical specialty or a master social worker (MSW) supervised in a clinical setting.

Section 08.87.110(c) Autonomous Practice

Limited to licensed independent social workers who have Board approval.

Section 08.87.120 License by Credentials

No exam would be required for social workers who hold an active license in another jurisdiction.

Section 08.87.130 License Renewal

Required every 24 months. No continuing education requirement, but Board must adopt regulations requiring proof of continued competency (08.87.070(6)).

Section 08.87.140 Fees

To be established by the Department with the approval of the Board. Intended to cover the Board's operational and administrative costs.

Section 08.87.200 Use of Title

Use of "social worker" title limited to licensed social workers. However, students enrolled in accredited program may use "social worker student" title; unlicensed state employees may use "associate social worker" title when operating under the supervision of a licensed social worker.

Section 08.87.210 Confidentiality

Required except under certain conditions (including written consent, death, criminal acts, and court proceedings). Reporting of child abuse is required.

Section 08.87.220-.240 Sanctions and Penalties

Board may impose disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the bill. Class B misdemeanor (maximum 90 day sentence) for improper use of "social worker" title.

Section 7

Grandfather Clause

For 24 months following enactment of the bill, licenses will be awarded without exam to applicants who hold a degree in social work or a related field and have been practicing for 24 consecutive months prior to application. Licenses will also be awarded to non-degreed persons who pass the exam and have been practicing for two years under a person eligible to be licensed. Application must be made prior to July 1, 1988.

ADOPTED BY SENATE FINANCE

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : 1/27/86

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : CSSB 227 (Finance)
 Title : Practice of Social Work & estab. a Board of Social Work Examiners

Sponsor : Senator Fahrenkamp
 Requestor : _____
 Date of Request : _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : Commerce & Economic Dev.
 BRU : Occupational Licensing

Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES		33.1	34.8	36.5	38.3	40.2
TRAVEL		2.3	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8
CONTRACTUAL		4.8	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.8
SUPPLIES		1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
EQUIPMENT		3.6				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		44.8	43.3	45.4	47.8	50.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE		87.5	6.3	81.3	6.3	91.3
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FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		44.8	43.3	45.4	47.8	50.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		44.8	43.3	45.4	47.8	50.0

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME		1				
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

The bill creates a Board of Social Work Examiners to implement the licensing of all practitioners utilizing the title "social worker". Three categories of licenses are established: the bachelor, master and independent. The bill also authorizes the Board to designate a nationally recognized specialty area of practice for independent social workers. (See attached for further analysis.)

Prepared by: Jennifer Strickler, Mgnt. Analyst Phone: 465-2144
 Division: Occupational Licensing Date: Jan. 27 1986

Approved by Commissioner: Loren H. Lounsbury Date: 1/27/86
 Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

1/27/86 Fiscal Note
 Occupational Licensing

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. CSSB 227 (Finance)

The fiscal note is reduced from previous notes as a result of reductions in the number of meetings and exam costs based on an estimated number of exam applicants during the initial implementation stages of the bill.

PERSONAL SERVICES:

Request: 1 Licensing Examiner I, Range 12A, GGU, 12 months, to be located
in Juneau \$33,145.82.

The primary concern of this agency is that current responsibilities prohibit new licensing functions from being assumed without additional support staff. While it is possible that approximately half of the Licensing Examiner's time may be required to manage the function of licensing social workers, it is necessary that a full time position be requested since inquiries from the general public are not geared toward 'part-time' services in licensing. Staff availability to respond to the public during normal State working hours is crucial to this agency. The lack of available staff support would cause additional burden to the workload of the present staff.

TRAVEL:

Travel costs were based on one meeting in Anchorage, assuming appointed members are from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai and Nome, in accordance with Sec. 08.87.010 which require that members be appointed from 'different geographic regions' of the State.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

The State Teleconference Network has increased charges to \$50 per site, per hour. The teleconference network is also unavailable to boards during the legislative session. Therefore, the Alascom teleconference system would be utilized. Costs for an additional full-day teleconference meeting and a special one-hour teleconference meeting are included. The request also includes funding for public notices required by AS 44.62, printing, postage, and telephone service. Costs to cover contracting for use of licensing examinations are also included based on 20 exam candidates upon effective date of the bill.

COMMODITIES:

This funding will cover stationery and other miscellaneous desk supplies required to support the function.

EQUIPMENT: (One time costs only)

These costs are to purchase equipment for the Licensing Examiner I position.

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. CSSB 227 (Finance)

PROJECTED REVENUES:

FY 87:	Based on the number of practitioners identified, it is anticipated that 350 practitioners will be seeking initial licensure. 350 x \$250	\$ 87.5
FY 88:	Based on the assumption that there will be at least 25 new applicants. 25 x \$250 This will make a total of 375 licensees.	6.3
FY 89:	Projections for this fiscal year are based on the assumption that all licenses will be renewed. Based on 375 licensees x \$200 (renewal fee) In addition, another 25 new licensees to make a total of 400 licensees. 25 x \$250	75.0 <u>6.3</u> 81.3
FY 90:	Based on an estimate of 25 new licensees, this would make a total of 425 licensees.	6.3
FY 91:	Assuming this will also be a renewal year, and based on 425 licensees x \$200 renewal fee. In addition, another 25 new licensees, to make a total of 450 licensees.	85.0 <u>6.3</u> 91.3

Position Title OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING EXAMINER I			No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 12A	Bare Unit EGU	Gov. Leg	Approv.	Disapp.																																																	
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12	RP Number	Location AWA	Election District																																																					
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**Request For
New Position**

Agency Commerce & Economic Development
BRU Occupational Licensing
Component Administration

Page 4 of 4
Revised Date 1/27/86

FY 87

Michelle Schenck

FEB 6 1985

SOCIAL WORK LICENSING REPORT

2-5-85

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF SOCIAL WORKERS ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSING

Total Number of NASW Members as of 10/31/85 226
Total number of NASW members not eligible or exempted.

(1) Students (BSW and MSW) 20

Number of NASW members that potentially might not choose to be licensed.

(1) Unemployed 11
(2) Retired 2
(3) Associates 5

Total number of NASW members impacted by licensure.

high estimate 206
Low estimate 188

Over 50% of social workers that belong to NASW have MSW's and are certified by ACSW (Academy of Certified Social Workers).

Total number of social workers employed by DFYS 138*

Number of DFYS social workers that are NASW members. We estimate from a 1982 report that approximately 20-26% of DFYS workers belong to NASW (projecting a 15% increase from 1982).

DFYS NASW members 36
DFYS non-members 102

Number of social workers employed by private non-profit agencies, in private practice, etc. that are non-NASW members.

Estimate 25-50

TOTAL SOCIAL WORKERS ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSURE - UNDUPLICATED COUNT

Low estimate 315
High estimate 358

WHY LICENSE SOCIAL WORKERS?

1. Licensing will enable the public to identify those social workers who have met minimum standards required for licensing. Presently, anyone can use the title of "social worker", even if they have no training or experience whatsoever. With licensing, the public will have the assurance that anyone representing themselves as a social worker will have the required professional preparation, regardless of the setting in which they practice.
2. Licensing will ensure an enforceable code of professional conduct. Licensure would provide consumers with easy access to investigative and adjudicative procedures through a regulatory body, supported by effective penalties for offending practitioners. The National Association of Social Workers believes that one of the most important reasons for enacting State licensure is the accountability it provides to the public.
3. Since a majority of states do have licensing of social workers, an Alaskan license would assure that uniform standards of social work practice exist from state to state. This will better serve the consumer, and allow reciprocity to the licensed professional.
4. Licensing will ensure that social workers are screened and evaluated carefully in terms of specific standards before they are allowed to have an independent practice.
5. Insurance reimbursement is possible. If a social worker is licensed, insurance companies have a standard for recognition and payment of this important health benefit to their subscribers. This will assist the consumer who uses both public and private services of social workers. A large percentage of mental health services are provided by unlicensed social workers in this State. The cost of these services are not retrievable by the public agencies who employ them. Many "denied claims" are now being written off at State expense because of the lack of a State social work license.
6. Licensing of social workers will provide consumers lower cost mental health services. A recent Defense Department Champus insurance report indicated "that in the majority of states the comparative prevailing fee profiles for social workers' psychotherapy sessions are lower than those for psychiatrists. DOD reports that no quality of care problems have arisen". The Champus insurance program for dependents of military personnel (a substantial population of Alaska) estimates that it saved over \$253,000 between December 1980 and March 1982 through its experimental reimbursement of clinical social workers.
7. Licensing social workers will ensure privileged communications between the professional social worker and their client. Confidentiality is at this time not regulated.
8. Licensing will assist consumers in locating qualified social work services. It will provide referral sources a clear understanding of specialization, education, and experience of a particular social worker. It is important to understand that the great majority of clients receiving social work services have no choice about who is to be their social worker. Where they have a choice, such as when seeking private therapy or family counseling, the consumer has no guidelines to judge the competence of the worker.

9. The provision of competent social work services requires professional education. Experience shows that the only way to ensure that persons giving services are capable, is to establish minimum standards for practice. Such regulation is essential for the public, as well as for the profession.
10. Legislation to license social workers needs to recognize clinically trained social workers as equally qualified to the other mental health professionals identified by law as competent in the evaluation of the mentally disturbed for purposes of commitment. The only non-licensed profession now included in Alaska's mental health commitment law is social work. Without regulating the practice of social work, there is concern in the profession that Alaskans could be subject to the improper use of State-given sanction.

Additional Notes

- Approximately 300-350 social workers in the State of Alaska would be licensed under legislation proposed by the Alaska Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
- Licensing fees collected from at least the above referenced numbers of individuals would more than off-set the costs of the Social Work Licensing Board needing to be established as part of the licensing law.

- CSHB 424: An Act establishing the Board of Behavioral Science;
- CSHB 317: Practice of Social Work and establishing the Board of Social Work Examiners;
- CSSB 227: Practice of Social Work and establishing the Board of Social Work Examiners;

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing, supports the consolidated board approach inherent in HB 424. There are three general areas of comment the division would like to address: the board configuration, the need for documentation of need on grounds of consumer protection, and documentation of numbers of professionals affected, for preparation of a fiscal note. Because the bill for the combined board, as currently written, is the most expensive of the three, the division proposes consideration of a five-member board to reduce costs. Since at least one professional group regulated, family and marital therapists, has only 20 members. We do not think the requirement of three board members for these 20 professionals is cost-effective.

The division would propose the following configuration:

Five board members, composed of 1 each of the professions (3), plus 2 public members.

The idea would be that the board member associated with each of the three professions would be the lead person with respect to standards for that group, but would get assistance from one other professional member as well as a public member. The benefits are:

1. More cooperation.
2. More economical approach.
3. More communication between related groups to ensure that standards, i.e., regulations, are not promulgated by one standards committee at the expense of another professional group on the board which frequently provides the same services.

Where there is overlap in professional responsibilities the board structure should reflect this rather than support autonomy, which may result in competition and fractionalism.

The division is neutral on these bills otherwise, pending receipt of both documentation of need (consumer protection aspects) and documentation of numbers of professionals affected (fiscal impact).

We hope that this documentation will be provided to us directly or through the committee via testimony by interested parties.



Loren H. Lounsbury, Commissioner
 Department of Commerce and
 Economic Development

Date: 3/6/85

Information Outline Regarding
House Bills 424,317 and Senate Bill 227

Prepared by

Dr. James T. Morris Jr.

Human Services
Chukchi Community College

Currently the House HESS committee is considering three bills related to the licensing of Behavioral Science professionals. These are HB 317, 424, and SB 227. These bills do not serve the public. These bills do not understand or represent the Behavioral Sciences or the the helping professions. The following comments are specifically addressed, however, to the helping profession of Social Work.

When those in need are helped and can receive services which allow them to function effectively within society, then society and those in need are served. As social problems continue to exist and increase with population growth, more and more social workers will be needed in the state. Any bill which would limit the potential pool of workers does not serve, but rather does a disservice to the public. The public is served when funds become available to hire more social workers to decrease caseloads, where funds are available to provide ongoing training for those employed in the field, when funds are available to increase the access of those in need to those that can help.

The vast majority of social workers in the state are employed by the state. I would suggest that the current mechanisms for employment, supervision, and oversight that currently exist at the state level are quite adequate. If there is doubt in the committee that social workers trained in non-BSW/MSW related fields are somehow less competent, less professional, or less dedicated as social workers, then I ask you to consider the following:

Currently the state of Alaska employs the majority of social workers in the state. According to statistics from the Division of Youth and Family Services, state Social Workers with degrees break down as follows:

PhD = 2

MSW = 32

BSW = 15

MA = 20

BA = 57

Thus, at this time 38% of those Social Workers with degrees have a BSW or MSW, and 68% of the state Social Workers have degrees in related fields. Call Mike Price, the director of Family and Youth Services. Ask him directly if there is any discernible differences in the two groups. Ask if BSW MSW social workers are superior, more professional, or held in higher regard by clients as helping professionals than the majority of his other social workers. Then ask why is it in the best interest of the state of Alaska to limit this license to one, and only one, degree program.

There appears to be no great overriding need for ANY social work or behavioral science licensing procedure at this time. If, however, you feel it is absolutely imperative that such a procedure be initiated, it is recommended that the following changes be incorporated to insure equity and true representation for this helping field.

Amend For an Act Entitled to read:

An act relating to the private practice in the field of social work and establishing a board of social work examiners; and providing for an effective date.

Amend Purpose to read:

Purpose. The purpose of this act is to assure the consumer that persons providing private services under the title of "social worker" have completed professional social work or social science education as defined by the board.

Amend Requirements to read:

has a bachelor's degree in social work or related field.

Amend Eligibility to read:

A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this section and has a master's degree in social work or related social science degree or is a licensed LBSW who has passed an exam and meets experience requirements as set forth by the Board.

Amend Eligibility for Independent SW to read:

A person is eligible for a license as an independent social worker (LISW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this section, has a master's degree in social work or related social science degree or is licensed under (b) of this section, and has completed at least 24 months post-graduate (or post MLSW award) supervised experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in which the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

Amend License by Credentials to read:

holds a degree in social work or related social science degree from an accredited college/university plus experience as evaluated by the board.

Amend Prohibitions and Penalties and insert to read as follows:

This section exempts State, Local government, and non-profit Native Organization personnel, and applies only to individuals engaged in private public practice.

DELETE any and ALL reference to National Organizations as the authority and model for the state of Alaska. This is a unique state, and most "model" outlines cannot, and do not, properly reflect the needs of this State or its people.

DELETE mandatory state EXAMINATIONS. Such requirements will inherently discriminate against rural and minority applicants. Require screening by exam ONLY for individuals wishing to open PRIVATE practice within the state.

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 227

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of social work and establishing the Board of Social Worker Examiners; and providing for an effective date."

This bill would establish a Board of Social Work Examiners which would set standards for specialty designations of Social Workers, provide for examination of eligible participants, adopt regulations for supervision of persons engaged in social work who are not Master Social Workers, and impose disciplinary sanctions. The bill would require that a person be licensed to use the title "Social Worker." The bill regulates confidentiality and the disclosure of information. The bill allows for a two year grandfathering of some persons currently employed as social workers.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports efforts to increase professional standards for social workers. The department is currently seeking to increase the number of M.S.W. and B.S.W. employees engaged in agency social work, by taking administrative actions which increase the availability and hiring of these degree'd professionals. In addition, the department believes that professional standards for social workers in the private sector would increase public confidence. The bill presents a number of complicated issues that have not been resolved quickly in other states. These areas require special scrutiny and analysis. This position paper first addresses two major issues, followed by a sectional analysis.

I. MAJOR DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES

A. Effect on Current State Employees:

There are currently 143 Division of Family and Youth Services social workers affected by the bill.

As of January 3, 1986, an Educational review of staff qualifications of Division of Family and Youth Services employees shows that of 143 social worker positions, 2 have Ph.D's, 32 have M.S.W. degrees, 20 have related master's degrees, 15 have B.S.W. degrees, and 57 have related bachelor's degrees. 52% of social work employees have a BSW or above, which represents the agency's strong management effort to continue to improve the credentials of social work staff.

Approximately 50% of social work supervisors have M.S.W. degrees from an accredited social work school. The department interprets the bill to indicate that under Section 7(a)(1) or (3) the majority of these persons would be eligible for licensure which would make it possible for their employees to qualify for licensure by related education [7(a)(1)] or experience and an examination [7(a)(3)].

The bill does allow for a limited license for "social workers" who do not meet all of the licensing standards, but who have degrees in social work or related fields and 24 months experience prior to July 1, 1987. The department is concerned that provisions be made for paraprofessional development and training to become licensed social workers after July 1, 1987.

B. Effect on State Hiring Practices, Including Local Hire and Affirmative Action Goals:

After the enactment of the bill, the department would be required to hire licensed social workers, with the exception of "associate social workers" who must be supervised by a licensed social worker. After July 1, 1987, it may be difficult to fill all positions, whether public or private, with licensed social workers, especially in rural areas. The bill's strict educational requirements for licensure after July 1, 1987 may impede the state's long-term goals of employing paraprofessional employees and developing a career ladder for them. The department often hires Alaska Native "Social Services Associates" who may eventually become social workers. Many of these employees possess Alaska Native language skills essential to providing services in some rural areas of the state. The bill would probably prevent these persons from advancing beyond the paraprofessional level unless they leave their communities for further education.

II. SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

A. Supervision

In addition to the concerns mentioned above, the department wishes to note other problem areas, section by section.

The bill, at 08.87.070(5), states that the licensing board must promulgate regulations determining how non-master social workers would be supervised. At this time the department cannot know how these supervision standards would relate to the department's supervisory structures. However, the department can attempt to deal with this issue when regulations are proposed in the future.

B. Powers of the Board

In Section 08.87.240, the penalty section of the bill, the department urges clarification of subsection (a) which creates a Class B misdemeanor. The present language states that "a person who violates this chapter" has committed a crime. This criminal provision should state what specific activity is made criminal, whether it is only practice without a license or, as an extreme example, whether it would be a crime for a social worker to breach confidentiality under 08.87.210.

The department also urges that Subsection (b) of 08.87.240 be set out as a separate section, as the Board's right to seek a civil injunction

would be better placed separately from the criminal penalty provisions of the bill. Also, the department urges the amendment of 08.87.240 as follows, to clarify that the Board is not empowered to issue injunctive type orders:

- (b) The Board may apply to the Superior Court for an order enjoining [MAY SEEK TO ENJOIN OR RESTRAIN] a person not licensed under this chapter or whose license is ~~suspended~~, revoked or expired from violating this chapter.

C. "Grandfathering"

The details of the waiver or "grandfathering" for present social workers are contained in Section 7 of the bill. The department interprets Section 7 to mean that this license is renewable by those who are licensed through grandfathering if the license has not been revoked for disciplinary reasons.

Section (7)(a)(1) broadens who may be licensed as a social worker to include related degrees or (3) practicing social work for 2 years under the supervision of someone eligible for licensure and by successfully completing the exam.

The department continues to be concerned about the grandfathering clause in that it does not take into consideration persons who have performed the duties of social work for two years or more and are now employed in the administration of an agency which employs social workers. The department therefore recommends that the following be added to Section 7 (a): "has practiced under the title Social Worker within the last five years and is now employed in the administration of an agency that employs people under that title."

III. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Sec. 8.87.140 sets out the fee structure. This would have an impact on State employees by imposing an application fee to be determined by the board. These fees could be very significant and costly to the state employee who does not presently pay any fees.

IV. OBSERVATION

This bill is designed to guarantee high standards of social work practice in the private and public sector. In reality, the real issues for the public sector are high caseloads, high ratios of supervisees to supervisors and inadequate training funds for state employed social workers.

V. RECOMMENDATION

The department supports the licensure of social workers in both the public and private sector as an additional method to monitor quality and

to protect the public, and the department believes accommodation should be made for persons currently employed as social workers or in the administration of an agency which employs social workers. The department prefers a licensing bill which establishes a Behavioral Science Board to oversee several counseling professions.

RECOMMENDED: Michael L. Price
Michael L. Price, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE: March 6, 1986

APPROVED: John R. Pugh
John R. Pugh, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE: 3/6/86

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : CSSB No. 227
 Title : An Act relating to the practice
of social work and establishing the
board of Social Worker Examiners
 Sponsor : HESS Committee
 Requestor : _____
 Date of Request : 7/86

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : Health and Social Services
 BRU : Social Services

 Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

None

Prepared by : Michael L. Price, Director
 Division : Family and Youth Services

Phone : 465-3170
 Date : 3/6/86

Approved by Commissioner : John R. Pugh
 Agency : Health and Social Services

Date : 3/6/86

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget

Fairbanks Community Mental Health Center

209 Forty Mile Ave., Grachi • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone (907) 452-1575

January 7, 1985

Dear State Legislators:

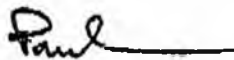
Senate Bill 227 offers an opportunity for the licensure of Alaska's social work professionals. The majority of states have a licensure law for social workers in order to assure competency. This protects the consumer, professional and employer.

The Fairbanks Community Mental Health Center, an employer of master level social workers, wishes to encourage passage of SB 227. One of our reasons for advocating for licensure pertains to the necessity of billing third party payors such as insurance companies and Medicaid. Insurance companies in particular request information on the respective state's assurances of professional competency. Without a license the professional has no recognition.

Personally, I endorse licensure and have lived and professionally practiced in three states with licensure laws. In these states the public was better assured of competency, and had the alternative of using a licensed clinical social worker when selecting a therapist. Based on pure economic the licensed social worker was cheaper to obtain services from than a psychiatrist.

Your support for this bill will be appreciated by our staff and Board of Directors.

Warm Regards,



Paul W. Trussell, Jr., ACSW
Executive Director

PWT:cj

LIBBY FINESMITH STORTZ, MSW, ACSW

P.O. Box 83003 College, Alaska 99708

600 University Avenue

(907) 455-8878

January 4, 1986

Dear Legislators:

I am writing you to express my support of your activities toward Social Work Licensure. As a Clinical Social Worker, I deliver therapeutic services to a wide variety of people. I work with children who have been victims of child abuse, neglect and sexual abuse. I work with their parents. I work with couples whose marriages are not working and individuals who are experiencing separation from the termination of their marital relations, through divorce, separation or death. I often work with adults who were abused as children. Some of my clients are seriously emotionally disturbed. Many are also the clients of the Division of Family and Youth Services. There are others.

As is the case in the lower 48, Social Workers deliver over 750 of therapeutic services. There are few psychiatrists available to treat these clients and community agencies are often overflowing, unable to meet their requests for service.

There are a number of very sound reasons for licensing Social Work practitioners. Some regulation of the practice of therapy is needed for the protection of the consumer. Currently, almost anyone may call themselves a social worker or hang out a shingle. As a Clinical Social Worker, I am bound by a code of ethics, but others may not be. Nor is there a structure in our State, for complaints by clients regarding ethical problems. In practicing with the wide variety of clients whom I see, I need the legal support of the State for privileged communication. A final important consideration is dollars and cents. With State licensing, the Clinical Social Worker is eligible to receive third party payments such as Medicaid. Without it, servicing children in foster care or in State custody, requires that the State pay for services through the administration of special funds. This would be virtually an unnecessary State expenditure if Social Workers were licensed.

I support HB 317 and SB227 or any bill which would result in some reasonable regulation of the practice of social work. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Libby Finesmith Stortz

Libby Finesmith Stortz, ACSW

Individual, Couple, Family, Group Therapy

(2)

ARCTIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE

805 College Rd.
Fairbanks, AK. 99701

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Social workers are the largest professional group providing mental health and social services in Alaska as well as in the nation;

WHEREAS: The National Institute of Mental Health has called psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric nursing and social work, "the four major mental health professions" and social work is the only one of the four groups not regulated in Alaska;

WHEREAS: Social work is legally regulated in 34 other states plus the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS: There is actual and potential harm to the public from unregulated social work practice;

WHEREAS: Licensure would further the development of quality of services by establishing educational and ethical standards;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Legislature should pass a law licensing social workers in Alaska.

Reference: 08227



Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption

222 Front St. Graehl
P.O. Box 1544
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
(907) 458-4729

March 6, 1986

Dear Representative Koponen and Representative Gruenberg,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption, I'm writing to you about social work licensure. Our agency strongly supports the need for licensure of social workers, and requests that you make licensure possible by passing legislation this session.

Our support is based on three areas of concern:

- guaranteeing quality treatment services for clients in need
- designing a standardized and accountable method of insuring quality services
- expanding the means to make the increased demands for quality treatment services possible

People who seek counseling services are often at their most vulnerable. Improper inadequate services do not help a client, and can be disastrously emotionally damaging. Skilled appropriate services can help a client to improve his life situation, as well as to ease personal pain. A person who is vulnerable and hurting is not in a position to first interview his helper to be sure that person is indeed well trained. He needs to know he can rely upon quality services.

Licensure guarantees standards for training, ethics, and professional conduct. It also establishes a system of accountability for whose conduct is in question.

FCA is one of a network of Fairbanks agencies committed to delivering quality counseling services. I'm sure as a legislator, you've heard of the increasing demands for individual and family services. The incidence of child abuse - emotional, physical and sexual - is increasing. The incidence of mental illness is increasing. Families need skilled assistance in changing their ways of communicating and behaving toward one another. Individuals need skilled assistance in changing the way they feel about themselves, the ways they view and relate to others in their world. Fairbanks does not have enough skilled therapists to meet our community needs. In fact we have a serious shortage of resources.



A United Way Member Agency

①

Licensing can help to make funding new positions possible. Insurance companies require that providers of clinical treatment be licensed in order to be eligible for third party collection. A few will accept national licensure. Most require state licensure as well. We do not have enough psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, (the only licensed clinicians in this state), to deliver needed services. Social workers provide well over half the treatment needs. However payment for social work services must primarily be out-of-pocket from clients or rely on state or city grants, or community funding efforts. As you know, state dollars for treatment services are shrinking. Yet our community needs more dollars to meet the increased demand for services.

Our agency is a non-profit one. We offer our services on a sliding fee scale. Many of our clients pay only \$5 or \$10 an hour! Increasing our insurance collections would help to subsidize seeing more low-income clients who do not have funds to pay.

Most of our agency counseling staff are eligible for licensure under the proposed social work licensure bills. We're committed to employing trained skilled professionals who can and will offer quality services. Our reputation in the community confirms their opinion of our quality services.

Our Board and staff ask that you make it possible to increase resources of our agency and others like us to help more clients in need. We ask that you make it possible to guarantee anyone in the state using the title Social Worker has the training and skills necessary to offer the quality services the consumer deserves. We ask you support social work licensure.

Sincerely,



Colleen Patrick-Riley, MSW, ACSW
Executive Director

ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

POST OFFICE BOX 10-1571, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

March 6, 1986

Honorable Max Gruenberg, Co-Chairman
Honorable Niilo Koponen, Co-Chairman

Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committee:

The Alaska Women's Lobby would like to express its support for SB 227 which provides for the licensing of social workers.

We believe that the establishment of professional, nationally recognized standards will increase the public confidence in those who provide these needed services.

Persons requiring the services of a social worker are often in a time of crisis. When a social worker intervenes in a family situation that family should be assured that this person has the experience, education and training to competently and ethically provide the needed services.

A licensing board will allow for the monitoring of the quality of service and will protect the public.

The bill allows for those without the required degree to become licensed through experience and examination, allowing qualified paraprofessionals to advance in their careers.

The establishment of nationally recognized standards for those practicing social work in our state will provide an incentive for continuing education which we believe can only benefit those providing and receiving social work services and would be in the best interests of the state.

We urge your favorable consideration of SB 227.

Thank you.

Sherrie Goll

Sherrie Goll, lobbyist
Alaska Women's Lobby

Offered: 1/29/86
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Fahrenkamp by request

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of social work and
7 establishing the Board of Social Worker Examiners;
8 and providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to assure the consu-
11 mer that persons providing services under the title "social worker" have
12 completed professional social work education or training, adhere to a code
13 of professional ethics, and are subject to licensure by the Board of Social
14 Work Examiners.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

16 (25) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

17 * Sec. 3. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

18 (21) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010) --

19 June 30, 1990.

20 * Sec. 4. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

21 CHAPTER 87. SOCIAL WORKERS.

22 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS.

23 Sec. 08.87.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD. There is
24 created a Board of Social Worker Examiners consisting of five members,
25 including three licensed master social workers, one of whom is li-
26 censed as an independent social worker, one licensed bachelor social
27 worker, and one public member. The public member may not be licensed
28 as a social worker, employed by a licensed social worker, or have a
29 financial interest in the social work profession. To the extent

COMMITTEE COPY

possible members shall be appointed from different geographic regions of the state. A member who has served two successive full terms may not be reappointed until four years after the expiration of the second term.

Sec. 08.87.020. TERM OF OFFICE. Each member of the board serves for a term of four years and until the member's successor is appointed and qualified. An appointment to a vacancy is for the unexpired term.

Sec. 08.87.030. BOARD MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least once a year.

Sec. 08.87.040. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The board shall elect from among its members a chairperson and a secretary. Officers serve for a term not exceeding two years.

Sec. 08.87.050. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may remove a member of the board for cause. Unexcused absences from meetings are cause for removal as determined by the board.

Sec. 08.87.060. PER DIEM AND TRAVEL. Board members receive no compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for members of boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

Sec. 08.87.070. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall

(1) provide for the examination of eligible applicants for licenses under this chapter;

(2) submit an annual report of its proceedings to the governor, including recommended changes to this chapter and a statement of money received and disbursed;

(3) adopt nationally recognized specialty designations for the private practice of social work and authorize speciality designations on licenses issued under this chapter;

(4) after a hearing, impose disciplinary sanctions against a person who violates this chapter, an order of the board, or a

regulation of the board;

(5) adopt regulations relating to requirements for the supervision of persons engaged in social work under this chapter who are not licensed master social workers;

(6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued competency before a license is renewed;

(7) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 08.87.090. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. The Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) applies to regulations and proceedings under this chapter.

ARTICLE 2. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

Sec. 08.87.100. LICENSING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) A person is eligible for a license as a bachelor social worker (LBSW) if the person

(1) is in good professional standing and is fit to practice social work as determined under regulations of the board;

(2) has satisfactorily completed the state examination for the license;

(3) provides three professional references to the board;

(4) has a bachelor's degree in social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(b) A person is eligible for a license as a master social worker (LMSW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this section and has a master's degree in social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(c) A person is eligible for a license as an independent social

worker (LISW) if the person meets the requirements of (a)(1) - (3) of this section, has a master's degree in social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and has completed at least 24 months of supervised post-graduate experience approved by the board in the field of specialty in which the person intends to engage as a private practitioner.

Sec. 08.87.110. SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (a) A person licensed as a bachelor, master, or independent social worker may provide services that enhance, protect, or restore people's capacity for social functioning whether impaired by physical, environmental, or emotional factors, guided by professional social work ethics, knowledge and intervention methods.

(b) A social worker may practice psychotherapy only if the social worker is licensed as an independent social worker with a clinical specialty or as a master social worker and is employed and supervised in a clinical setting.

(c) A social worker may practice social work autonomously only if

(1) the person is licensed as an independent social worker;

(2) the board has approved the specialty in which the person may engage as a private practitioner and authorizes designation of the specialty on the person's license;

(3) the license bearing a designation of specialty is prominently displayed in the place the person engages in private practice; and

(4) the person limits the private practice of social work to the designated specialty.

Sec. 08.87.120. LICENSE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall provide for licensing a person as a bachelor, master or independent social

worker without examination if the person

(1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

(2) has an active license to practice social work in another licensing jurisdiction with requirements at the time of the original licensure that were similar to or higher than those of this state;

(3) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a professional social worker association or regulatory authority;

(4) has not failed the examination of this state;

(5) has not previously had a license to practice social work revoked in this or another jurisdiction;

(6) submits proof of continued competence as required by regulation of the board; and

(7) pays all required fees.

Sec. 08.87.130. LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIRED. A license issued under this chapter shall be renewed in accordance with AS 08.01.100.

Sec. 08.87.140. FEES. An applicant for examination, reexamination, or issuance or renewal of a license shall pay the fees established by the department under AS 08.01.065.

ARTICLE 3. PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES.

Sec. 08.87.200. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR USE OF TITLE. (a) Unless licensed under this chapter, a person may not use the title "social worker" or a title, designation, or device indicating or tending to indicate that the person is a social worker or practices social work. A person may not use the letters "LBSW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as a bachelor social worker under this chapter. A

person may not use the letters "MSW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as a master social worker under this chapter. A person may not use the letters "LISW" as part of a title unless the person is licensed as an independent social worker under this chapter. Except as provided in (b) of this section, a person may not use the title "social worker intern" or "social worker student."

(b) A student enrolled in an accredited social work program may use the title "social worker intern" or "social worker student" if the person's activities constitute a part of the person's supervised course of study.

(c) A person who is not licensed under this chapter may use the title "associate social worker" or a similar title while the person is providing services as a social worker to the state or a political subdivision of the state under the supervision of a social worker licensed under this chapter.

Sec. 08.97.210. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. A social worker licensed under this chapter or an associate social worker may not disclose information provided to the social worker by a client in the course of their professional contact. This prohibition does not apply if the

(1) client provides written consent to the social worker to reveal the communication;

(2) client is incompetent and the guardian or personal representative provides written consent to the social worker to reveal the communication;

(3) client is dead and a beneficiary of an insurance policy on the client's life provides written consent to the social worker to reveal the communication;

(4) communication discloses that a crime has been committed

or reveals an intent to commit a crime;

(5) client is a minor, the communication discloses that the client was the victim of a crime or harmful act, and the social worker reveals the communication only during the course of an official examination, trial or other proceeding in which the commission of the crime or harmful act is a subject of inquiry;

(6) client brings charges against the social worker and the social worker reveals the communication only as necessary to defend the charges;

(7) social worker is subpoenaed to testify in court;

(8) social worker is collaborating or consulting with professional colleagues or an administrative superior on behalf of the client;

(9) communication discloses information that the social worker is required by state or federal laws or regulations to disclose.

Sec. 08.87.220. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction on a person licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the licensee

(1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation;

(2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation in the course of providing professional services or engaging in professional activities;

(3) advertised professional services in a false or misleading manner;

(4) has been convicted of a crime that has a substantial relationship to the licensee's activities and services or that affects

the licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;

(5) intentionally or negligently engaged in or permitted the performance of social work by persons under the licensee's supervision that does not conform to minimum professional standards regardless of whether actual injury occurred;

(6) failed to comply with this chapter, with a regulation adopted under this chapter, or with an order of the board;

(7) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

(A) professional incompetence;

(B) addiction or dependence on alcohol or other drugs that may endanger the public by impairing the licensee's ability to practice;

(C) physical or mental disability;

(8) engaged in lewd conduct in connection with the delivery of professional services;

(9) has been held liable for malpractice in a civil action;

(10) has had a license revoked in another jurisdiction.

Sec. 08.87.230. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. (a) If it finds that a licensee has committed an act set out in AS 08.87.220, the board may impose the following sanctions singly or in combination:

(1) permanently revoke a license to practice;

(2) suspend a license for a determinate period of time;

(3) censure a licensee;

(4) issue a letter of reprimand to the licensee;

(5) place a licensee on probationary status and require the licensee to

(A) report regularly to the board upon matters involving the basis of probation;

(B) limit practice to those areas prescribed;

(C) continue professional education until a satisfactory degree of skill has been attained in those areas that are the basis of probation;

(6) impose limitations or conditions on the practice of a licensee;

(7) refuse to renew a license.

(b) The board may withdraw probationary status if it finds that the deficiencies that required the sanction have been remedied.

(c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final hearing or during the appeal process if the board finds that the licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license is suspended under this section is entitled to a hearing by the board no later than seven days after the effective date of the order. The person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) The board may reinstate a license that has been suspended or revoked if the board finds after a hearing that the applicant is able to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

(e) The board shall seek consistency in the application of disciplinary sanctions. The board shall explain significant departure from prior decisions involving similar situations in findings of fact or orders.

Sec. 08.87.240. CRIMINAL PENALTY. A person who violates AS 08.-27.200 or 08.87.210 of this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Sec. 08.87.250. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The board may apply to the superior court for an order enjoining a person not licensed under this chapter or whose license is suspended, revoked, or expired from

violating this chapter.

ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sec. 08.87.300. DEFINITION. In this chapter "board" means the Board of Social Worker Examiners.

* Sec. 5. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
(5) Board of Social Worker Examiners (AS 08.87.010).

* Sec. 6. Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act the governor shall appoint initial members to the Board of Social Worker Examiners. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.010 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act, initial members must consist of three persons who have a master's degree in social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, at least one of whom is engaged in the private practice of social work, one person with a bachelor's degree in social work from a school with a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and one public member. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.020 as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act, one initial member shall serve a one-year term, one initial member shall serve a two-year term, one initial member shall serve a three-year term, and two initial members shall serve four-year terms, as determined by the governor.

* Sec. 7. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.87.100(a) as enacted in sec. 4 of this Act, a person may apply for and receive a license as a bachelor social worker if the person

(1) holds a degree in social work from a school with a social work program that is not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or a bachelor's or master's degree in a social sciences field related to social work as defined by the board, and has been practicing under the title "social worker" for at least 24 consecutive months before July 1, 1988;

(2) meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(a)(1), (3) and (4);

or

(3) has been practicing social work under the supervision of a person eligible to be licensed under this Act for at least two years, and successfully completes the examination required by AS 08.87.100(a)(2).

(b) A person who does not meet the requirement under AS 08.87.100(a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(b) may apply for and receive a license as a master social worker.

(c) A person who does not meet the requirements under AS 08.87.100(a)(2) but otherwise meets the requirements of AS 08.87.100(c) may apply for and receive a license as an independent social worker.

(d) An application for a license under this section must be filed before July 1, 1986.

* Sec. 8. Notwithstanding AS 08.87.200, a person practicing social work on July 1, 1986, may use a title and letters as part of the title that indicate that the person is a social worker or practices social work until June 30, 1988, even if the person is not licensed under AS 08.87.100 or 08.87.120.

* Sec. 9. This Act takes effect July 1, 1986.

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 1/27/86

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSB 227 (Finance)
Title: Practice of Social Work & estab.
a Board of Social Work Examiners

Sponsor: Senator Fahrenkamp
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Commerce & Economic Dev.
BRU: Occupational Licensing

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES		33.1	34.8	36.5	38.3	40.2
TRAVEL		2.3	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8
CONTRACTUAL		4.8	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.8
SUPPLIES		1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
EQUIPMENT		3.6				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		44.8	43.3	45.4	47.8	50.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE		87.5	6.3	81.3	6.3	91.3
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FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		44.8	43.3	45.4	47.8	50.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		44.8	43.3	45.4	47.8	50.0

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME		1				
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

The bill creates a Board of Social Work Examiners to implement the licensing of all practitioners utilizing the title "social worker". Three categories of licenses are established: the bachelor, master and independent. The bill also authorizes the Board to designate a nationally recognized specialty area of practice for independent social workers. (See attached for further analysis.)

Prepared by: Jennifer Strickler, Mgnt. Analyst Phone: 465-2144
Division: Occupational Licensing Date: JAN 27 1986

Approved by Commissioner: Loren H. Lounsbury Date: 1/27/86
Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

10/25/85

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. CSSB 227 (Finance)

The fiscal note is reduced from previous notes as a result of reductions in the number of meetings and exam costs based on an estimated number of exam applicants during the initial implementation stages of the bill.

PERSONAL SERVICES:

Request: 1 Licensing Examiner I, Range 12A, CGU, 12 months, to be located
in Juneau \$33,145.82.

The primary concern of this agency is that current responsibilities prohibit new licensing functions from being assumed without additional support staff. While it is possible that approximately half of the Licensing Examiner's time may be required to manage the function of licensing social workers, it is necessary that a full time position be requested since inquiries from the general public are not geared toward 'part-time' services in licensing. Staff availability to respond to the public during normal State working hours is crucial to this agency. The lack of available staff support would cause additional burden to the workload of the present staff.

TRAVEL:

Travel costs were based on one meeting in Anchorage, assuming appointed members are from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai and Nome, in accordance with Sec. 08.87.010 which require that members be appointed from 'different geographic regions' of the State.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

The State Teleconference Network has increased charges to \$50 per site, per hour. The teleconference network is also unavailable to boards during the legislative session. Therefore, the Alascom teleconference system would be utilized. Costs for an additional full-day teleconference meeting and a special one-hour teleconference meeting are included. The request also includes funding for public notices required by AS 44.62, printing, postage, and telephone service. Costs to cover contracting for use of licensing examinations are also included based on 20 exam candidates upon effective date of the bill.

COMMODITIES:

This funding will cover stationery and other miscellaneous desk supplies required to support the function.

EQUIPMENT: (One time costs only)

These costs are to purchase equipment for the Licensing Examiner I position.

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. CSSB 227 (Finance)

PROJECTED REVENUES:

FY 87:	Based on the number of practitioners identified, it is anticipated that 350 practitioners will be seeking initial licensure. 350 x \$250	\$ 87.5
FY 88:	Based on the assumption that there will be at least 25 new applicants. 25 x \$250 This will make a total of 375 licensees.	6.3
FY 89:	Projections for this fiscal year are based on the assumption that all licenses will be renewed. Based on 375 licensees x \$200 (renewal fee) In addition, another 25 new licensees to make a total of 400 licensees. 25 x \$250	75.0 <u>6.3</u> 81.3
FY 90:	Based on an estimate of 25 new licensees, this would make a total of 425 licensees.	6.3
FY 91:	Assuming this will also be a renewal year, and based on 425 licensees x \$200 renewal fee. In addition, another 25 new licensees, to make a total of 450 licensees.	85.0 <u>6.3</u> 91.3



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature


House of Representatives

Representative Mike Szymanski

SR-A-Box 1304B
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Phone (907) 349-3373

While in Session:
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 13, 1986

TO: House HESSS Committee
FROM:  Representative Mike Szymanski
SUBJECT: SB 227.

I have some concerns with SB 227, the licensing of social workers, which is presently before the Committee.

Under the provisions of Sec. 08.87.110 (Scope of Practice) and Sec. 08.87.200 (License Required for Use of Title), would an individual be prohibited from

- 1) participating as a volunteer in a workshop situation, such as one on crisis intervention.
- 2) functioning as a counselor in the field of crisis intervention?

There are those who work in these areas who would not necessarily be a licensed social worker but who would, nevertheless, be qualified to counsel or intervene in different types of situations.

I would be interested to know if these concerns have been addressed by others and if the issues will be dealt with during the committee hearings.

Thank you.

NASW

FACTS ABOUT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 227(Fin.) LICENSURE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

- Licensure of Social Workers protects the consumer by assuring that persons using the title "Social Worker" have professional educational preparation and by creating a licensing board to provide for an avenue for complaints about unprofessional or unethical conduct.
- CSSB227(Fin.) provides for licensure at three levels:
 - LBSW for persons holding a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work
 - LMSW for persons holding a Master's Degree in social Work
 - LISW (licensed independent social worker) for persons holding a Master's or Doctors Degree in Social Work plus two years of specialized practice.
- Licensure of Social Workers will be achieved at no cost to the State of Alaska. CSSB227(Fin.)'s Fiscal Note demonstrates that license fees will offset the cost of the operation of the Board of Social Work Examiners.
- Persons who have related Bachelor's Degrees and who have practiced under the title "Social Worker" for two years will be "grandparented" at the LBSW level. Thus, no one currently practicing under the title will lose their job, and the consumer will still be assured of the oversight of the Board should unprofessional or unethical conduct occur.
- Only the title "Social Worker" would be regulated by CSSB227(Fin.).
- Social Work licensing will increase the consumer's ability to receive insurance reimbursement for services rendered by clinical and health care social workers.

FACTS ABOUT SOCIAL WORK IN ALASKA

- Three hundred fifty (350) or more persons in Alaska who have the BSW or MSW degree and/or who have practiced under the title "Social Worker" for two years would be licensed.

- Social Workers in Alaska in public and private agencies as well as in independent practice are engaged in child protective services, mental health, community organization and administration as well as senior citizens, health and family counseling services.
- Social Work is the only one of the four major mental health professions which is not licensed in by the State of Alaska (psychiatry, psychology, nursing, and Social Work and which authorizes by statute to commit persons to mental health facilities.
- Clinical Social Workers provide over 50% of all mental health services rendered in Alaska and the United States.
- Professional Social Work education is available in Alaska at the BSW level.
 - UAA has a nationally accredited BSW Degree Program with 90 students majoring in that area. UAA graduates an average of 15 BSW's each year.
 - UAF has a BSW Degree Program in progress of being nationally accredited, 36 majors.
 - Like many other States, Alaska does not have an MSW program but individuals with a BSW degree can complete an MSW in less than two years in 30% of MSW programs
 - BSW degrees differ from BA or BS degrees in:
 - The applied nature of the curriculum
 - The requirement of at least 400 clock hours of supervised internship nationally
 - The inclusion of curriculum on theories of helping, human growth and behavior, social welfare system, and programs and statistics and research