

By Mr. McEvoy of Somerville, petition of Joseph F. McEvoy, Jr., and another relative to the establishment of a board of examiners of social workers and relative to the powers and duties of said board. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SOCIAL WORKERS AND RELATIVE TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF SAID BOARD.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. *Definitions.* — The following words and
2 phrases as used in this act, unless the context other-
3 wise requires, shall have the following meanings: —
4 “Board”, the board of registration of social workers
5 established by section forty-eight of chapter thirteen
6 of the General Laws.
7 “Practice of social work”, performing or holding
8 one’s self out as able to perform the professional
9 service of social work.
10 “Social work”, the professional administration,
11 supervision or use of social case work techniques in a
12 family, children’s school, hospital, clinic, court, pro-
13 bation, parole, public welfare, group or community
14 organization or similar agency.
15 “Social worker”, any person who engages in the
16 professional practice of social work for compensation.

- 1 SECTION 2. *Who may apply for Registration; Fee*
2 *to accompany Application.* — Any citizen of the United
3 States who is a resident of Massachusetts for one year

4 prior to application and who is at least twenty-one
5 years of age and of good moral character and who is
6 not now or has ever been a member of any subversive
7 organization and who meets the professional require-
8 ments as hereinafter set forth may apply for registra-
9 tion as a social worker. Every applicant shall pay
10 to the board the fee established herein which fee is to
11 accompany the application.

1 SECTION 3. *Examination by Board; Rules and*
2 *Regulations; Seal.* — The board shall examine appli-
3 cants for registration as professional social workers. It
4 shall make such rules and regulations as are necessary
5 for the proper conduct of its duties, the establishment
6 of professional skill in social work, and the enforce-
7 ment of this chapter; provided, that the board shall
8 not before January first, nineteen hundred and fifty-
9 six, make any rule requiring that registered social
10 workers must hold the degree of master of social work
11 or master of social science or equivalent degree from
12 a graduate school of social work eligible for member-
13 ship in the American Association of Schools of Social
14 Work or any rule which would impair the right of any
15 person who is regularly engaged in social work practice
16 on January first, nineteen hundred and fifty-six, for
17 compensation, from being registered without a written
18 examination. The board shall adopt and use an
19 official seal.

1 SECTION 4. *Time and Place of Examination; Type*
2 *and Content.* — When oral or written examinations are
3 required they shall be held at such time and place as
4 the board shall determine. Examination shall be held
5 at least once each year but additional examinations
6 may be conducted if public convenience requires. If
7 examinations are required on basic social work subjects
8 such as those ordinarily given in the curriculum of a
9 graduate school of social work, the applicant shall be
10 permitted to take this portion of the examination

11 before obtaining the required years of practical ex-
12 perience. The examination shall cover both theory
13 and practice of social work and shall include Massa-
14 chusetts and United States laws pertaining to social
15 welfare, historical and professional literature in the
16 field of social welfare, basic information in related
17 fields of sciences pertaining to social welfare and such
18 other matters as the board deems desirable for profes-
19 sional competence. A candidate failing an examina-
20 tion may be re-examined but may not take more
21 than three examinations.

1 SECTION 5. *Registration without Examination.* —
2 Until January first, nineteen hundred and fifty-six,
3 every applicant shall be registered as a professional
4 social worker without examination if he files an appli-
5 cation therefor accompanied by the registration fee
6 herein established; provided, that he is able to estab-
7 lish that on the effective date of this act he was ac-
8 tively and regularly engaged in the practice of profes-
9 sional social work for compensation in a public or
10 private agency, or that he meets the educational or
11 experience requirements for registration as hereinafter
12 set forth. The fact that an applicant for registration
13 is not at the time of application practicing his pro-
14 fession shall not of itself make him ineligible for regis-
15 tration if he meets the existing educational and experi-
16 ence requirements.

1 SECTION 6. *Registration of Student Social Workers;*
2 *Requirements.* — All students enrolled in schools of
3 social work shall be registered with the board as stu-
4 dent social workers without fee. The student social
5 workers shall not be required to meet the age, citizen-
6 ship or residence requirements required for registered
7 social workers but they must not at the registration
8 time or previously be a member of any organization
9 which is deemed subversive by the attorney general
10 of the commonwealth or the attorney general of the

11 United States. Suspension and revocation of student
12 registration shall be for the same reasons for which
13 a registered social worker's right to practice could be
14 suspended or revoked.

1 SECTION 7. *Reciprocity Registration.* — The board
2 may register, without examination, any social worker
3 who has been registered under the laws of another
4 state; provided, that in the opinion of the board the
5 requirements for registration in such other state is
6 substantially equivalent to the standards required by
7 this commonwealth; and, further provided, that so-
8 cial workers registered in this commonwealth are given
9 like recognition and registration. The fee for recipro-
10 cal registration shall be the same as that required for
11 registration without examination.

1 SECTION 8. *Form and Content of Application; Reg-*
2 *istration Fees.* — Application for registration shall be
3 on forms prescribed and furnished by the board, shall
4 contain statements made under oath, showing educa-
5 tion and a detailed summary of professional work
6 and shall contain not less than five references of whom
7 three shall be professional social workers or teachers
8 of social work having a knowledge of the applicant's
9 professional skill. The registration fee for registration
10 based on written examination shall be twenty-five dol-
11 lars, for registration without examination or reciprocal
12 registration shall be ten dollars, for re-examination
13 after failure shall be ten dollars for each re-examination.

1 SECTION 9. *Annual Renewal or Registration; Re-*
2 *newal Fee.* — Every registered social worker shall an-
3 nually on April first of each year renew his registration
4 to practice social work. Renewal registration appli-
5 cations shall be on the forms prescribed and furnished
6 by the board at least thirty days prior to April first
7 and shall contain an affidavit that the applicant is
8 not then and has not been during the prior year a
9 member of any subversive organization. Annual re-
10 newal fee shall be two dollars.

1 SECTION 10. *Minimum Requirements for Regis-*
2 *tration.* — The following shall be considered the mini-
3 mum evidence satisfactory to the board that an ap-
4 plicant is qualified for registration as a social worker
5 but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the
6 adoption by rule of higher standards which shall be
7 applicable to those applicants applying for original
8 registration after the effective date of the rule: —

9 (1) Graduation with a master of social work degree
10 or master of social science degree or equivalent degree
11 from a college or university authorized by the general
12 court to grant such degrees; provided, that such
13 institution is a member or eligible to join the American
14 Association of Schools of Social Work, or holders of
15 the above degrees from an accredited college or uni-
16 versity in another state which is a member or eligible
17 for admission to the American Association of Schools
18 of Social Work; provided, that the curriculum is
19 acceptable to the board.

20 (2) Successfully passing a written, or a written and
21 oral, examination to show knowledge and skill ap-
22 proximating that required to graduate from a college
23 level program of six years of undergraduate and grad-
24 uate school preparation; and a specific record of
25 five years of social work experience satisfactory to the
26 board and indicating that the applicant is competent
27 to practice professional social work.

28 In counting years of experience under (2) the board
29 may give credit not in excess of two years for the
30 completion of a bachelor's degree from an approved
31 college and a further credit in substitution of ex-
32 perience for the satisfactory completion of one year
33 of graduate school social work training in an institu-
34 tion meeting the requirement of (1) above.

1 SECTION 11. *Certificate of Registration.* — The board
2 shall issue a certificate of registration, upon the pay-
3 ment of the requisite registration fee, to any applicant
4 who, in the opinion of the board, has satisfactorily
5 met all the requirements of the above sections. The

6 certificate shall entitle the person to whom it has been
7 issued to use the title of registered social work and
8 to use the letters RSW in connection with his name.

1 SECTION 12. *Use of Designation restricted; Penalty.*
2 — No person not registered under the provisions of
3 sections one through eleven shall designate himself or
4 hold himself or permit himself to be held out as a
5 registered social worker or use the letters RSW. No
6 agency, partnership or corporation shall describe itself
7 or himself as a registered social worker or use the
8 letters RSW unless all social workers, except student
9 social workers, are registered social workers, but any
10 agency, partnership or corporation may indicate that
11 any specified person is a registered social worker
12 or RSW. Any violation of this section which is not
13 punishable under section sixty-five shall be punished
14 by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or
15 imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

1 SECTION 13. *Duties of the Secretary as to Moneys*
2 *received; Bond.* — The secretary of the board shall
3 receive an account for all moneys received and shall
4 pay the same to the state treasurer. Said secretary
5 shall give to the state treasurer a bond, in such sum
6 and with such sureties, as may be required by the
7 board, conditioned on the proper performance of his
8 duties.

1 SECTION 14. *Clerical and other Assistance.* — The
2 board may employ such clerical and other assistance
3 as may be necessary for the proper performance of
4 its duties.

