

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 14, 2010
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: National Association of Social Workers

BILL NUMBER: AB 2167
AUTHOR: P. Nava

BILL SUMMARY: Clinical Social Workers: Examination Requirements

This bill would, effective January 1, 2014, permit the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), if adopted by regulation, to accept the federal exam as a condition of licensure for licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs).

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would not result in additional state costs.

COMMENTS

Under current law, LCSW applicants must pass a written or oral state examination administered by the BBS as well as a clinical vignette written exam in order to receive a license to practice in California. Currently, the national Association of Social Work Boards Clinical Level Exam does not meet BBS' state exam standards nor does it take California's demographics and practices into account.

This bill would allow the BBS to determine whether the national exam, as modified, would meet the prevailing standards for validation and use of the state licensing and certification exam. Should the BBS make that determination, this bill would, effective January 1, 2014, permit the BBS to adopt a regulation to offer the national exam to LCSW applicants as well as a state jurisprudence and ethics exam as a condition of licensure in California. This bill would also require the BBS to immediately post that determination on its website.

LCSWs in California are currently ineligible to participate in the federal National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program because California does not currently offer the national exam as a condition of licensure. We understand the intent of this bill is to enable LCSWs to become eligible for the federal National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program once the BBS starts offering the national exam to the LCSW applicants as a condition of licensure.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)			Fund Code
				2010-2011 FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	
1110/ConAfr-ReqBd	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----			0773
<u>Fund Code</u> 0773	<u>Title</u> Behavioral Science Examiners Fund						

Analyst/Principal (0280) J. Carosone	Date	Assistant Program Budget Manager Nona Martinez	Date
---	------	---	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)