

HOUSE BILL 3015

Comments on HB 3015 by Boatman (HD-67), Second Regular Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature.

The proposed House Bill 3015 intends to address the critical shortage of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) in the State of Oklahoma. At present, the OSBLSW requires a total of 4,000 hours of post-graduate experience. HB3015 reduces the total supervision hours to 3,000 hours for social workers pursuing clinical licensure.

BILL IMPACT

- Oklahoma's current supervision requirements are higher than surrounding states [1], which creates barriers for out-of-state social workers looking to practice in Oklahoma.
- The proposed reduction in supervisory hours will not negatively impact the competency of social workers practicing in Oklahoma. There is no current research to support increased competency when comparing 4,000 supervision hours to the number of hours proposed in HB3015.
- The legislation will not affect OSBLSW's ability to effectuate ethical, competent social workers serving Oklahomans. OSBLSW maintains procedures to protect the public through the Complaint Committee's process of citizen complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions for violations.
- Mentorship and support does not end when supervision does. Our profession values continued collaboration, consultation, and the development of clinical skills amongst fellow social workers.
- Less supervision hours will incentivize Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) to pursue higher levels of licensure and the increased clinical skills and expertise with more attainable hour requirements.
- Research shows [2] there is no correlation between jurisdictions with higher supervision hours and a reduction in licensure violations.
- One in five Oklahoma adults experience mental illness [3]. Reducing barriers to licensure by decreasing supervision requirements will increase the number of competent social work practitioners in the State to serve those with mental illness.
- Compared to Oklahoma Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) [4], LCSWs require 1,000 hours of additional supervision. Reducing LCSW supervision requirements will attract those debating pursuing licensure as an LPC or LCSW to more heavily consider an LCSW.

For these reasons, HB3015 provides effective policy solutions to address the workforce shortage of LCSWs in our state [5].



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1. Association of Social Work Boards. (<https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Comparison-of-clinical-supervision-requirements-9.23.19.pdf>)
 2. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky. Dismantling Structures That Impede Social Work Practice: Exploring the Relationship Between Hours of Supervised Experience and Licensure Violations. (<https://journals.iupui.edu/index.php/advancesinsocialwork/article/view/24976>)
 3. Healthy Minds Policy Initiative. (<https://www.healthymindspolicy.org/data>)
 4. Okla. Stat. tit. 59 § 1906(C)(2)
 5. These comments are those of the Committee of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers formed to review HB3015.