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S.F. No. 3691 - Social worker provisional licensure modifications and recodifying

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Bill Overview

S.F. 3691 modifies provisions governing provisional social work licenses. Specifically, the bill removes certain requirements to obtain a provisional license under existing law, subjects provisional licensees to the grounds for disciplinary actions for social workers, requires increased mandatory supervision hours but permits supervision to include supervision via “eye-to-eye electronic media while maintaining visual contact,” and revises existing requirements for acting as a supervisor. S.F. 3691 further modifies board authority relating to “supervision plans,” and instructs the Revisor of Statutes to recodify the 3 sections on provisional licensees from Chapter 146D (these are the only 3 remaining sections in the chapter, the rest were repealed) to Chapter 146E (on “Board of Social Work Practice”).

Section Summaries

Section 1 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.061, subd. 1) This section removes certain requirements to obtain a provisional license, including that the applicant must: have been born in foreign country, communicate in English, and has taken certain exams.

Section 2 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.061, subd. 8) This section subjects provisional licensees to the grounds for disciplinary actions for social workers in Minn. Stat. § 148E.190 (*e.g.*, social worker violates a state law, conducts social work before licensure, and practices outside scope of practice).

Section 3 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.062, subd. 1) This section increases the number of hours of supervision required after the licensee’s receipt of provisional license from 37.5 hours to 50 hours.

Section 4 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.062, subd. 2) This section increases the required hours of supervision after a licensee’s receipt of a provisional license from three out of every 160 hours to four out of every 160 hours, until a permanent license is issued.

Section 5 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.062, subd. 3) This section permits “one-to-one supervision” and “group supervision” of provisional licensees to include supervision provided via “eye-to-eye electronic media while maintaining visual contact.” It also reduces the permissible number of members of a group for purposes of group supervision of provisional licensees from 7 to 6. This section further prohibits supervision by email.

Section 6 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.062, subd. 4) This section removes a provision of existing law permitting eligibility as a supervisor of provisional licensees due to having engaged in 5,000 hours of authorized social work practice. In addition, this section expands eligibility for permissible supervisors. Specifically, it adds, if the provisional licensee isn’t engaged in clinical practice, the following as permissible supervisors: (1) licensed graduate social workers who have completed the supervised practice requirements; (2) licensed independent social workers; and (3) licensed independent clinical social workers.

Section 7 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.063, subd. 1) This section removes the board’s ability to revoke a provisional license for failure to submit the supervision plan (for meeting the various supervision requirements), or a revised supervision plan, within 30 days. It further removes an existing requirement that the supervision plan include the number of in-person supervision hours, such that the supervision plan requirement would instead be the inclusion of the number of hours of one-on-one supervision.

Section 8 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148D.063, subd. 2) This section removes the existing requirement that, when a licensee’s supervisor submits an evaluation of the licensee to the board, the evaluation addresses “ensuring continuing competence.”

Section 9 (Revisor’s Instruction) This section directs the Revisor of Statutes to move the three sections on provisional licensees from Chapter 146D (these are the only three remaining sections in the chapter; the rest were repealed) to Chapter 146E (on “Board of Social Work Practice”).

Section 10 (Repealer) This section repeals Minn. Stat. § 148D.061, subd. 9, which permits the board to immediately revoke a provisional license for cause if the licensee violates a requirement of section 148D.061 (*e.g.*, non-payment of fees, not meeting supervision requirements, not complying with scope of practice).