

HOUSE BILL NO. 334

INTRODUCED BY KEENAN

BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK  
EXAMINERS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE HOUSE

JANUARY 20, 1987	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & LABOR.
FEBRUARY 3, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS. REPORT ADOPTED.
FEBRUARY 4, 1987	PRINTING REPORT.
FEBRUARY 5, 1987	SECOND READING, DO PASS.
FEBRUARY 6, 1987	ENGROSSING REPORT.  THIRD READING, PASSED.  TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.

IN THE SENATE

FEBRUARY 10, 1987	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & INDUSTRY.
FEBRUARY 20, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 2, 1987	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.
MARCH 4, 1987	THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN. AYES, 44; NOES, 6.  RETURNED TO HOUSE.

IN THE HOUSE

MARCH 5, 1987	RECEIVED FROM SENATE.  SENT TO ENROLLING.
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 6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO GENERALLY REVISE THE  
 7 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND PROFESSIONAL  
 8 COUNSELORS; REQUIRING POSTDEGREE WORK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS;  
 9 RECOGNIZING NATIONAL EXAMS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS;  
 10 PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL LICENSES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS; AMENDING  
 11 SECTIONS 37-22-301, 37-22-303, AND 37-23-202, MCA; AND  
 12 PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE AND AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE  
 13 DATE."

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 15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16 Section 1. Section 37-22-301, MCA, is amended to read:  
 17 "37-22-301. License requirements -- exemptions. (1) A  
 18 license applicant shall satisfactorily complete an  
 19 examination prepared and administered by the board, except  
 20 that during the 365-day period following the effective date  
 21 of this chapter a license must be granted without  
 22 examination if the requirements of subsection (2) are met.  
 23 (2) Before an applicant may take the examination, he  
 24 shall present three letters of reference from social  
 25 workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, or psychiatric nurses

1 who have knowledge of the applicant's professional  
 2 performance and demonstrate to the board that he:

3 (a) has a doctorate or master's degree in social work  
 4 from a program accredited by the council on social work  
 5 education or approved by the board;

6 (b) has accumulated 3,000 hours of practice postdegree  
 7 work experience in psychotherapy within the past 5 years;  
 8 and

9 (c) abides by the social work ethical standards  
 10 adopted under 37-22-201.

11 (3) An applicant who has failed the examination may  
 12 reapply to take the examination.

13 (4) An applicant is exempt from the examination  
 14 requirement if he satisfies the board that he is licensed,  
 15 certified, or registered under the laws of a state or  
 16 territory of the United States that imposes substantially  
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 18 an examination similar to that required by the board."

19 Section 2. Section 37-22-303, MCA, is amended to read:

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 23 he is exempt from examination and has otherwise fulfilled  
 24 the requirements of 37-22-301, the applicant must be issued  
 25 a license attesting to the date and fact of licensure. The

1 license is effective on the date of issuance and expires 2  
2 ~~years-after-that-date~~ December 31 of each year.

3 (2) The license must be displayed in the registrant's  
4 place of business or employment."

5 Section 3. Section 37-23-202, MCA, is amended to read:

6 "37-23-202. Licensure requirements. (1) To be licensed  
7 on or before December 31, 1987, as a professional counselor  
8 under this chapter, an applicant must have satisfactorily  
9 completed:

10 (a) a planned graduate program of study that was  
11 primarily counseling in nature which resulted in an advanced  
12 degree in a counseling field from an institution accredited  
13 to offer such a degree program;

14 (b) 2,000 hours or more of postdegree work experience  
15 as a counselor in a hospital, school, agency, or other  
16 supervised setting;

17 (c) and passed an examination prepared and  
18 administered by:

19 (i) the board, based on a national examination  
20 approved by the board;

21 (ii) the national board of certified counselors; or

22 (iii) the national academy of certified clinical mental  
23 health counselors; and

24 (d) an application form and process prescribed by the  
25 board that includes submission of three letters of

1 nomination from counselors or related professionals, each of  
2 whom holds a master's degree or higher and who can attest to  
3 the quality of the applicant's work.

4 (2) To be licensed after December 31, 1987, an  
5 applicant must have satisfactorily completed:

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8 were earned in an advanced counseling practicum, which  
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1        NEW SECTION. Section 4. Expiration of two-year  
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8        NEW SECTION. Section 5. Extension of authority. Any  
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11 provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this  
12 act.

13        NEW SECTION. Section 6. Applicability. This act  
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16        NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date. This act is  
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