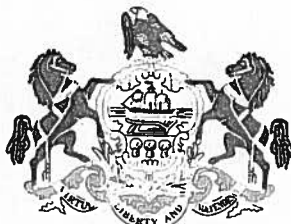


SETH GROVE, MEMBER
196TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

B-15 MAIN CAPITOL
PO BOX 202196
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2196
PHONE: (717) 783-2655
FAX: (717) 772-9869

WESTGATE PLAZA
1550-C KENNETH ROAD
YORK, PA 17408
PHONE: (717) 767-3947
FAX: (717) 767-9857

E-mail: sgrove@pahousegop.com
Web Site: RepGrove.com
[Facebook.com/RepSethGrove](https://www.facebook.com/RepSethGrove)
[Twitter.com/RepGrove](https://twitter.com/RepGrove)



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MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Seth Grove
196th Legislative District

Representative Gordon Denlinger
99th Legislative District

Date: February 1, 2011

Subject: Amending Social Workers Act (Former HB 2380)

We are reintroducing House Bill 2380 from the 2009-2010 session that amends Act 39 of 1987, the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act. This bill will amend the requirements for three types of licenses: the clinical social work license; marriage and family therapist license; and professional counselor license.

First, this bill would address ambiguity in the current educational requirements. Currently, applicants are required to complete a specified number of years OR hours of supervised clinical experience. Under this legislation, the number of years will be removed, as regulations already addresses the minimum and maximum number of hours than can be obtained in a given year.

Second, this bill would require applicants for a marriage and family therapist license and professional counselor license to successfully complete the required coursework on or before June 30, 2009. When the licensure requirements were amended in 1998 to require a 48-semester-hour master's degree, a grandfather exemption was included for five years after the date these final regulations were promulgated. This date fell on March 2, 2007.

I originally introduced this legislation at the request of a constituent, who, after completing her course work, including a 45-semester-hour master's degree, discovered that the current statute prevents her from obtaining a social worker license in Pennsylvania, because she narrowly missed completing her course work within five years of the promulgation of the regulations.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Lisa Burkholder at lburkhol@pahousegop.com or 717-783-2655. Thank you for your consideration.

Previous Cosponsors:

Grove, Creighton, Gingrich, Killion, Miller, Moul, Murt, Reichley and Waters