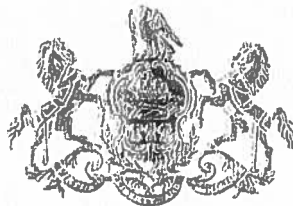


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Majority Caucus Chairman

APR 27 2011



Senate of Pennsylvania
MIKE WAUGH
SENATOR

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MAJORITY CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Mike Waugh *MIKE*

SUBJECT: Request to co-sponsor legislation
Amending Social Workers Act

DATE: April 27, 2011

I am reintroducing legislation 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 license: clinical social work license; marriage and family therapist license; and professional counselor license. This was Senate Bill 990 of the 2009-10 session.

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, 2008. 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 co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Debbie Clark in my office at 787-3817, or by email dclark@pasen.gov.