
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 987 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY R. TAYLOR, BELFANTI, BRENNAN, HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS,
KOTIK, MANN, SIPTROTH AND VULAKOVICH, MARCH 19, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MARCH 19, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), entitled "An
2 act licensing and regulating the practice of social work;
3 providing penalties; and making an appropriation," further
4 providing for unlawful practice.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 20(a.1) of the act of July 9, 1987
8 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and
9 Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, added July 9,
10 2008 (P.L.929, No.68), is amended to read:

11 Section 20. Unlawful practice.

12 * * *

13 (a.1) Title.--It shall be unlawful for an individual to hold
14 oneself out as a social worker, use the title of "social worker"
15 or use the abbreviation of "S.W." without meeting the definition
16 of "social worker." This subsection includes advertising as a
17 social worker and adopting or using any title or description of
18 services incorporating the term "social worker" and their
19 related abbreviations, which implies directly or indirectly that

1 the individual is a social worker. This subsection shall not
2 apply to the following individuals:

3 (1) An individual employed by the Commonwealth in a
4 social work position on the effective date of this
5 subsection, during the time of employment by the
6 Commonwealth.

7 (2) An individual employed as a school social worker in
8 a public or private school in this Commonwealth on or before
9 the effective date of this subsection, during the time of
10 employment as a school social worker.

11 (3) In order to assure compliance with the provisions of
12 42 CFR 483.15(g) (relating to quality of life) and 28 Pa.
13 Code §§ 201.3 (relating to definitions) and 211.16 (relating
14 to social services), an individual employed in a long-term
15 care facility licensed by the Department of Health who
16 provides social work services under administrative
17 supervision.

18 * * *

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.