

**Senate Study Bill 1084 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON RAGAN)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to social work, including the licensure of  
2 social workers and the creation of a licensed social worker  
3 loan repayment program and a revolving fund.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 154C.1, Code 2011, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. "*Social worker*" means a person who  
4 holds a current license under this chapter or has received a  
5 baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree in social work from  
6 an accredited school of social work approved by the council on  
7 social work education.

8 Sec. 2. Section 154C.2, Code 2011, is amended by striking  
9 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 **154C.2 License required — use of title.**

11 1. A person shall not engage in the practice of social work  
12 unless such person meets one of the following requirements:

13 a. Has received a baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral  
14 degree in social work from an accredited school of social work  
15 approved by the council on social work education.

16 b. Holds a current social worker license pursuant to section  
17 154C.3.

18 2. A government entity, public or private agency, or other  
19 entity shall not use the title "social worker" or any form  
20 of the title, including but not limited to the abbreviations  
21 "S.W.", "B.S.W.", "M.S.W.", "D.S.W.", "L.B.S.W.", "L.M.S.W.",  
22 or "L.I.S.W.", for volunteer or employment positions or within  
23 contracts for services, documents, manuals, or reference  
24 materials unless the volunteers or employees in those positions  
25 are licensed social workers as set forth in this chapter.

26 Sec. 3. Section 154C.3, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 1. *License requirements.* An applicant for a license as a  
29 bachelor social worker, master social worker, or independent  
30 social worker shall meet the following requirements in addition  
31 to paying all fees required by the board:

32 a. *Bachelor social worker.* An applicant for a license as a  
33 bachelor social worker shall present evidence satisfactory to  
34 the board that the applicant:

35 (1) Possesses a bachelor's degree in social work from an

1 ~~accredited college or university~~ school of social work approved  
2 by the ~~board~~ council on social work education.

3 (2) Has passed an examination given by the board.

4 (3) Will conduct all professional activities as a bachelor  
5 social worker in accordance with standards for professional  
6 conduct established by the board.

7 *b. Master social worker.* An applicant for a license as a  
8 master social worker shall present evidence satisfactory to the  
9 board that the applicant:

10 (1) Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work  
11 from an ~~accredited college or university~~ school of social work  
12 approved by the ~~board~~ council on social work education.

13 (2) Has passed an examination given by the board.

14 (3) Will conduct all professional activities as a master  
15 social worker in accordance with standards for professional  
16 conduct established by the board.

17 *c. Independent social worker.* An applicant for a license  
18 as an independent social worker shall present evidence  
19 satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

20 (1) Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work  
21 from an ~~accredited college or university~~ school of social work  
22 approved by the ~~board~~ council on social work education.

23 (2) Has passed an examination given by the board.

24 (3) Will conduct all professional activities as a social  
25 worker in accordance with standards for professional conduct  
26 established by the board.

27 (4) Has engaged in the practice of social work, under  
28 supervision, for at least two years as a full-time employee or  
29 for four thousand hours prior to taking the examination given  
30 by the board.

31 (5) (a) Supervision shall be provided in any of the  
32 following manners:

33 (i) By a social worker licensed at least at the level of the  
34 social worker being supervised and qualified under this section  
35 to practice without supervision.

1 (ii) By another qualified professional, if the board  
2 determines that supervision by a social worker as defined  
3 in subparagraph subdivision (i) is unobtainable or in other  
4 situations considered appropriate by the board.

5 (b) Additional standards for supervision shall be  
6 determined by the board.

7 **Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 261.113 Licensed social worker loan**  
8 **repayment program.**

9 1. A licensed social worker loan repayment program is  
10 established, to be administered by the college student aid  
11 commission for the purpose of increasing the number of social  
12 workers serving in critical human service areas. For purposes  
13 of this section, "*critical human service area*" includes but  
14 is not limited to an area of the state with a shortage of  
15 social workers providing health, mental health, substance  
16 abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS, victim, or child welfare services,  
17 or communities with multilingual needs. These areas shall  
18 be designated by the college student aid commission, in  
19 consultation with a committee comprised of one representative  
20 each from the commission, the department of public health, and  
21 the department of human services.

22 2. The contract for the loan repayment shall stipulate the  
23 time period the licensed social worker shall practice in a  
24 critical human service area. In addition, the contract shall  
25 stipulate that the licensed social worker repay any funds paid  
26 on the person's loan by the commission if the person fails to  
27 practice in a critical human service area for the required  
28 period of time.

29 **Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 261.114 Licensed social worker loan**  
30 **repayment revolving fund.**

31 1. A licensed social worker loan repayment revolving fund  
32 is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under  
33 the control of the commission. The commission shall deposit  
34 payments made by program participants under section 261.113,  
35 subsection 2, moneys appropriated for purposes of the licensed

1 social worker loan repayment program, and any other available  
2 funds into the loan repayment revolving fund. Moneys in the  
3 fund shall be used for purposes of the licensed social worker  
4 loan repayment program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys  
5 deposited in the fund shall not revert to any fund of the state  
6 at the end of any fiscal year but shall remain in the fund and  
7 be continuously available for the program.

8 2. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest  
9 or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited  
10 to the fund.

11 3. *a.* The annual amount of loan repayment is six thousand  
12 five hundred dollars for individuals who have provided  
13 full-time social work services in a critical human service  
14 area in the year prior to such application, provided that  
15 no recipient shall receive loan repayment that exceeds the  
16 total remaining balance of the student loan debt and that  
17 no recipient shall receive cumulative awards in excess of  
18 twenty-five thousand dollars.

19 *b.* Awards shall be within the amounts appropriated for such  
20 purpose and based on availability of funds.

21 4. Loan repayment awards shall be made annually to  
22 applicants in the following order of priority:

23 *a.* First priority is given to applicants who have received  
24 payment of an award pursuant to this section in a prior year  
25 and who have provided social work services in a critical human  
26 service area in the year prior to such application.

27 *b.* Second priority is given to applicants who have not  
28 received payment of an award pursuant to this section in  
29 a prior year and who have provided social work services  
30 in a critical human service area in the year prior to such  
31 application.

32 *c.* Third priority is given to applicants who are  
33 economically disadvantaged, as defined by the commission.

34 5. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
35 to administer this section.

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EXPLANATION

2 This bill provides that only a person who is a licensed  
3 social worker and has received a baccalaureate, master's,  
4 or doctoral degree in social work from an accredited school  
5 approved by the council on social work education may use the  
6 title "social worker" or any form or abbreviation of the title.

7 The bill creates a licensed social worker loan repayment  
8 program administered by the college student aid commission.  
9 Applicants for the program must enter into an agreement with  
10 the commission, agreeing to work for a specific period of time  
11 in a "critical human service area", defined as a geographic  
12 area in Iowa with a shortage of social workers in health,  
13 mental health, substance abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS, victim, or  
14 child welfare concerns, or communities with multilingual needs.

15 The program provides a specific annual benefit, up to  
16 \$6,500, for licensed social workers who have worked in a  
17 critical human service area in the previous year. No recipient  
18 shall receive loan repayment that exceeds the total remaining  
19 balance of the student loan debt and no recipient shall receive  
20 cumulative awards in excess of \$25,000.

21 The program is funded by a special revolving fund in  
22 the state treasury, controlled by the college student aid  
23 commission. The fund consists of moneys appropriated for  
24 purposes of the program, repayments by participants who fail  
25 to meet the service area requirements, and any other available  
26 moneys. Moneys deposited in the fund do not revert to the  
27 state at the end of any fiscal year but shall remain in the fund  
28 and be continuously available for the program. Interest or  
29 earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall also be credited  
30 to the fund.