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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 528, L.D. 1298, “An Act Establishing Alternative Pathways to Social Worker Licensure”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §7054-D** is enacted to read:

**§7054-D. Alternative pathways to licensure**

Beginning September 1, 2026, a person who has attempted and failed to complete the examination prescribed by the board may qualify for licensure through one of the following alternative pathways.

**1. Licensed social worker.** An applicant for licensure as a licensed social worker must:

A. Provide an expanded agreement to provide consultation form as prescribed by the board documenting the intent to receive 144 hours of consultation concurrent with 4,800 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than 3 years; and

B. Provide an attestation form as prescribed by the board attesting that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education, or successor organization, through successful completion of a bachelor's of social work internship.

**2. Licensed master social worker.** An applicant for licensure as a licensed master social worker must:

A. Provide an expanded agreement to provide consultation form as prescribed by the board documenting the intent to receive 144 hours of consultation concurrent with 4,800 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than 3 years; and

B. Provide an attestation form as prescribed by the board attesting that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on

Social Work Education, or successor organization, through successful completion of a master's of social work graduate-level internship.

**3. Licensed master social worker, conditional clinical.** An applicant for licensure as a licensed master social worker, conditional clinical must:

A. Provide an expanded agreement to provide consultation form as prescribed by the board documenting the intent to receive 144 hours of consultation concurrent with 4,800 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than 3 years; and

B. Provide an attestation form as prescribed by the board attesting that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education, or successor organization, through successful completion of a master's of social work graduate-level internship.

**4. Licensed clinical social worker.** An applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker must provide evidence, using a form approved by the board, of successful completion of clinical social work experience while licensed as a licensed master social worker, conditional clinical through 48 hours of consultation concurrent with 1,600 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than one year that also serves as an attestation that the applicant has demonstrated competence in the 9 competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education, or successor organization.

This section is repealed March 1, 2031.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

## SUMMARY

The bill establishes a method for a person who has attempted and failed to complete a State Board of Social Worker Licensure examination for licensure as a licensed social worker; licensed master social worker; licensed master social worker, conditional clinical; or licensed clinical social worker to qualify for licensure through an alternative pathway. This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It removes the requirement that an applicant for any category of social work licensure must complete a jurisprudence exam.

2. It adds a requirement that any applicant provide the board with an agreement to provide consultation form and an attestation form related to the 9 Council on Social Work Education competencies for all licenses.

3. It clarifies that the requirements for the alternative pathway for the licensed master social worker level of licensure match the requirements of the licensed master social worker, conditional clinical level of licensure alternative pathway.

4. For applicants seeking licensure as a licensed clinical social worker through the alternative pathway, the amendment requires that the applicant provide evidence of successful completion of clinical social work experience while licensed as a licensed

1 master social worker, conditional clinical through 48 hours of consultation concurrent with  
2 1,600 hours of social work employment occurring within a period of not less than one year.

3 5. It requires that the alternative pathway program is available beginning September  
4 2026 and adds a repeal date in 5 years.

5 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6 **(See attached)**