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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Howe and members of the House Higher Education Budget Committee

From: Jill A. Wolters, First Assistant Revisor

Date: February 15, 2023

Subject: **HB2375**, concerning the powers, duties and functions of the behavioral sciences regulatory board (BSRB) relating to social work; establishing the temporary candidacy baccalaureate and master social work licenses; providing requirements and fees.

Currently, BSRB issues licenses to baccalaureate and masters social work applicants who have a degree from an accredited college/university, including completing a social work program recognized and approved by BSRB, passed an exam and satisfied BSRB that the applicant merits the public trust.

This bill would authorize BSRB to grant a temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license to a person who received a baccalaureate or masters degree from a social work program in candidacy status from an accrediting body recognized by BSRB (including an online program) upon: 1) Demonstrating receipt of a baccalaureate or masters degree, including completion of a social work program in candidacy from an accrediting body recognized by the board; 2) passing an exam; 3) submitting a completed, signed temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license application on a form and in a manner provided by BSRB; 4) satisfying BSRB that the applicant merits the public trust; and 5) paying the temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social worker fee (not more than \$75, see page 6, lines 32-34). The temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license is valid for 24 months and may be extended upon a showing that the social work program remains in candidacy status and paying an additional \$75 fee. Such social worker shall represent themselves as “licensed by temporary candidacy license” and shall not use the credentials “LBSW” or “LMSW”, as applicable. Such social worker is further required to practice under supervision and not required to complete continuing education. Once the program is accredited, such social worker shall receive a permanent license upon the payment of the applicable fee. If the program is not accredited, BSRB shall immediately revoke the temporary license and notify the licensee of the revocation. The provisions of HB2375 authorizing a temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license shall apply to, but not be limited to, the online baccalaureate and online masters social work program at the university of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

The bill becomes effective upon the publication in the statute book.