

Introduced by Senator Perata

February 20, 2004

An act to amend Section 4996.9 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to clinical social work.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1853, as introduced, Perata. Clinical social work.

Existing law regulates the practice of clinical social workers by the Board of Behavioral Sciences and defines the practice of clinical social work.

This bill would revise this definition to include the application of specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills in the areas of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions, and addictions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4996.9 of the Business and Professions  
 2 Code is amended to read:  
 3 4996.9. (a) The practice of clinical social work is defined as  
 4 a service in which a special knowledge of social resources, human  
 5 capabilities, and the ~~part that unconscious motivation plays in~~  
 6 ~~determining behavior, is directed at helping~~ *professional use of*  
 7 *self to help* people to achieve more adequate, satisfying, and  
 8 productive social ~~adjustments.~~ *adjustments. The, psychosocial, or*  
 9 *biopsychosocial functioning, and requires the application of*  
 10 *specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills in the*



1 *areas of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental,*  
2 *emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions, and addictions.*

3 (b) The application of social work principles and methods  
4 includes, but is not restricted to, counseling and using applied  
5 psychotherapy of a nonmedical nature with individuals, families,  
6 or groups; providing information and referral services; providing  
7 or arranging for the provision of social services; explaining or  
8 interpreting the psychosocial aspects in the situations of  
9 individuals, families, or groups; helping communities to organize,  
10 to provide, or to improve social or health services; or doing  
11 research related to social work.

12 (c) Psychotherapy, within the meaning of this chapter, is the use  
13 of psychosocial methods within a professional relationship, to  
14 assist the person or persons to achieve a better psychosocial  
15 adaptation, to acquire greater human realization of psychosocial  
16 potential and adaptation, to modify internal and external  
17 conditions which affect individuals, groups, or communities in  
18 respect to behavior, emotions, and thinking, in respect to their  
19 intrapersonal and interpersonal processes, *and to diagnose and*  
20 *treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions, and*  
21 *addictions.*

