Washington State
House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

HB 2286

Brief Description: Concerning alternative routes to social worker licensure.

Sponsors: Representatives Rule, Marshall, Jacobsen and Shavers.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the requirement that an advanced social worker complete an approved examination for licensure.
- Permits a licensed independent clinical social worker to complete an enhanced supervision requirement in lieu of an examination.
- Allows an enhanced supervision to fulfill experiential hours for licensed independent clinical social workers.

Hearing Date: 1/21/26

Staff: Elizabeth Rehn (786-7129).

Background:

The state licenses two types of social workers: advanced social workers and independent clinical social workers. To become licensed as either type of social worker, an applicant must have: (1) graduated from an approved master's or doctorate level social work educational program; (2) passed an approved examination; (3) completed a supervised experience requirement; and (4) completed continuing education requirements.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The requirement that an advanced social worker complete an approved examination is removed.

A licensed independent clinical social worker may complete enhanced supervision with an attestation of the social worker applicant's skill and safety from an approved supervisor. This enhanced supervision requirement may be used to fulfill the required minimum 3,000 hours of experience.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 14, 2026.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.