



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

**22 VAC 40-670 – Degree Requirements for Social Work Occupational Group
Department of Social Services
June 5, 2013**

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

To comply with title protection requirements in Chapter 794 of the 2011 Acts of the Assembly, the Board of Social Services (Board) proposes to change the titles of Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) employed Social Workers and Social Work Supervisors to Family Services Specialists and Family Services Supervisors, respectively.

Result of Analysis

There is insufficient information to ascertain whether benefits will outweigh costs for these proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

In 2011, the General Assembly passed a law that reads, in part, “It shall be unlawful for any person not licensed under this chapter to use the title of “social worker” in writing or in advertising...”. This law also makes it a Class I misdemeanor to violate this title protection provision. In response to this change in statute, the Board now proposes to change the titles of Social Workers I, II, III and IV as well as Social Work Supervisors so that these individuals as well as the LDSS that employ them will be in compliance with the law. The Board proposes to change the titles of these workers to Family Services Specialists I, II, III and IV and Family Services Supervisors.

This change will benefit social workers that are licensed through the Department of Health Professions as they will now have sole use of the title of social worker. LDSS will likely incur one-time costs for reprinting business cards for the 2,689 affected workers (approximate

cost: \$9.50 per box) and will also likely incur some one-time expense for staff time spent going through all electronic information and brochures and changing titles appropriately.

Businesses and Entities Affected

Board staff reports there are currently 2,689 employees of LDSS that will be affected by this proposed regulatory change.

Localities Particularly Affected

All LDSS will be affected by this proposed regulatory action.

Projected Impact on Employment

This regulatory action is unlikely to affect employment in the Commonwealth.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

These proposed regulatory changes are unlikely to affect the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

No small businesses will be affected by this regulatory action.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

No small businesses will be affected by this regulatory action.

Real Estate Development Costs

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 14 (10). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, a determination of the public benefit, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or

entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has an adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.