

STATE OF NEW YORK

9379--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 19, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, BERGER, LUPARDO, STECK, TAPIA, LEVENBERG, EACHUS, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, SAYEGH, ZACCARO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- recommitted to the Committee on Mental Health in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a master of social work paid field practicum pilot program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section
2 7.51 to read as follows:

3 § 7.51 Master of social work paid field practicum pilot program.

4 (a) The office shall establish and administer a master of social work
5 paid field practicum pilot program to provide stipends, within appropri-
6 ations therefor, to students who are enrolled in a master of social work
7 program at a program registered by the state education department and
8 accredited by the Council of Social Work Education, and who are required
9 to perform direct practice services in a mental health setting as part
10 of the field practicum component of such program.

11 (b) Commencing with the fall two thousand twenty-six semester, the
12 pilot program shall provide stipends for the field practicum during the
13 first four hundred fifty hours of field practicum for students complet-
14 ing a required field practicum component as part of their course of
15 study in a master of social work program.

16 (1) Such pilot program shall be available to all students who:

17 (i) are enrolled in a master of social work program in accordance with
18 subdivision (a) of this section; and

19 (ii) perform their field practicum in New York state.

20 (2) Students who are eligible for this pilot program shall receive a
21 stipend of four thousand five hundred dollars, at a rate of ten dollars

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 per hour, while completing their first four hundred fifty hours of a
2 field practicum as part of their required field practicum component.
3 Such stipend shall be distributed monthly and shall automatically renew
4 annually until either the student completes four hundred fifty hours of
5 a field practicum or the end of the spring semester in two thousand
6 thirty, whichever occurs first. Students who receive such funding shall
7 agree to work in New York state in a social work capacity for one year
8 upon graduating.

9 (i) Students who receive funding of four thousand five hundred dollars
10 or more relating to the completion of such field practicum from any
11 other source, including, but not limited to, grants, scholarships,
12 fellowships, or work-based placements, shall be ineligible for a stipend
13 pursuant to this program.

14 (ii) Students who receive funding of less than four thousand five
15 hundred dollars relating to the completion of such field practicum from
16 any other source, including, but not limited to, grants, scholarships,
17 fellowships, or work-based placements shall be eligible for a stipend
18 for the difference between their existing funding and four thousand five
19 hundred dollars.

20 (c) The office shall provide informational materials about the pilot
21 program to schools in the state who offer a master of social work
22 program that are registered by the state education department and
23 accredited by the Council of Social Work Education. Such schools shall
24 post such informational materials in the same manner as other available
25 scholarships, fellowships, or other stipend programs on the school's
26 official website for the purpose of informing students and prospective
27 students of the master of social work paid field practicum pilot program
28 established under this section.

29 (d) In accordance with state and federal confidentiality and privacy
30 laws, the office shall collect data annually from any college, universi-
31 ty, or mental health setting that has students participating in the
32 pilot program and make such data public on their website. The data shall
33 be used to assess:

34 (1) the correlation of any increase in applications received for
35 admission to a university or college master in social work program and
36 the number of students who apply to the pilot program;

37 (2) statewide enrollment trends in master of social work programs
38 resulting from students' participation in the pilot program compared to
39 before the pilot program, including, but not limited to:

40 (i) demographics of students enrolled in master of social work
41 programs, including age, race, socioeconomic status, gender identity,
42 sexual orientation, ability, geographic, religion, representation, and
43 any other demographic factor that the office deems relevant;

44 (ii) impacts on retention, attrition, dropout rates, and degree
45 conferral rates. For the purposes of this subparagraph:

46 (A) "retention rate" means the number of students who continue enroll-
47 ment in their program between specified terms;

48 (B) "attrition rate" means the number of students who leave enrollment
49 between specified points in time;

50 (C) "dropout rate" means the number of students who discontinue their
51 master of social work program without earning a degree; and

52 (D) "degree conferral rate" means the number of students who complete
53 their master of social work program;

54 (3) the impact on a student's financial stability and their ability to
55 satisfy their cost of living needs, including a student's debt levels;

1 (4) the impact field practicum funding has on workforce retention for
2 participating mental health settings once the pilot program work
3 requirement is completed;

4 (5) the impact on field practicum settings' ability to meet service
5 demands of their clients and communities in which they provide services
6 and supports; and

7 (6) any other metric or area of study the office deems relevant.

8 (e) The office shall produce a report on the efficacy of the pilot
9 program based on the data collected pursuant to subdivision (d) of this
10 section and shall submit such report to the governor and the legisla-
11 ture, and be made public, no later than December first, two thousand
12 thirty. Such report shall include recommendations on how to expand the
13 pilot program to increase the number of social workers in the state,
14 improve representation in the field of social work, mitigate student
15 debt and improve labor conditions for social workers upon graduation.

16 (f) Amounts made available to the master of social work paid field
17 practicum pilot program shall be subject to annual appropriations there-
18 for. Such appropriations shall be adjusted each fiscal year to provide
19 funding to students enrolled in a qualifying master of social work
20 program pursuant to this section and to reflect the variance between
21 current enrollment numbers for master of social work programs and
22 enrollment in the previous fiscal year.

23 § 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026. Effective immediately,
24 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-
25 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
26 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.