



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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(As Introduced)

Reps. Hackett and Garland, R. Hagan, Stebelton

BILL SUMMARY

- Modifies application and examination requirements for licenses issued by the State Board of Psychology and increases the application fee.
- Makes changes regarding who is exempted from licensure.
- Modifies the license renewal process and increases renewal fees starting on July 1, 2014.
- Creates a retired license status for license holders who have retired from the practice of psychology or school psychology.
- Requires the Board to investigate alleged violations of laws and rules governing the practice of psychology in Ohio and permits the Board to examine witnesses, administer oaths, and issue subpoenas as part of its investigations.
- Creates eight new reasons for which the Board may take disciplinary action against an applicant or a license holder.
- Permits the Board to require an applicant or a license holder who is subject to disciplinary action to (1) limit or restrict the areas of practice, (2) submit to mental, substance abuse, or physical evaluations, or (3) complete remedial education and training.
- Permits the Board to use a telephone conference call to conduct an emergency meeting to suspend a license prior to holding a hearing if there is an immediate threat to the public.
- Requires the Board to establish a case-management schedule for pre-hearing procedures.

- Permits the Board to require a person seeking restoration of a license to (1) submit to mental, substance abuse, cognitive, or physical evaluations and (2) participate in Board processes designed to expose the applicant to the laws and rules governing the practice of psychology in Ohio.
- Requires the Board to adopt rules governing the use of telepsychology in Ohio.
- Permits the Board to approve or establish a colleague assistance program.
- Clarifies the distinction between school psychologists licensed by the Board and school psychologists licensed by the State Board of Education.
- Requires the Board to charge a \$40 fee for written verification of license status.

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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Licensure

Application

The bill requires each applicant for a psychologist or school psychologist license issued by the State Board of Psychology to file an application with the executive director of the Board, rather than the Board's secretary as required by existing law.¹ The Board may appoint a Board member or the executive director to serve as the entrance examiner who, under law unchanged by the bill, must determine the sufficiency of an applicant's qualifications for admission to the appropriate examination.²

Psychologist license application

With respect to the requirements for application for admission to the psychologist licensing examination, the bill removes provisions of existing law that do both of the following:

--Require an applicant to be a citizen of the United States or to have legally declared an intention of becoming a citizen;

--Permits the Board to deem a doctoral degree to be the equivalent of a doctoral degree in psychology or school psychology if the applicant, not later than 60 days after April 7, 2009, enrolled in an educational institution recognized by national or regional accrediting agencies and received an earned doctoral degree not later than eight years after that date.³

All of the other requirements for admission to the examination are unchanged by the bill – an applicant must be at least 21 years old and of good moral character, meet

¹ R.C. 4732.09.

² R.C. 4732.10(A).

³ R.C. 4732.10(B); conforming change in R.C. 5120.55.

education requirements, and have at least two years of supervised professional experience in psychological work.⁴

School psychologist license application

With respect to the requirements for application for admission to the examination to be licensed by the Psychology Board as a school psychologist, the bill removes a provision of existing law requiring the applicant to be a citizen of the United States or to have legally declared an intention of becoming a citizen. All of the other requirements for admission to the examination are unchanged by the bill – an applicant must be at least 21 years old and of good moral character; have at least a master's degree in school psychology; and have completed at least 60 quarter hours of graduate-level study in school psychology, an internship meeting specified criteria, and, in addition to the internship, 27 months of full-time experience as a certified school psychologist.⁵

Examination

The bill changes examination requirements for psychologist and school psychologist licenses. In addition, it requires an applicant for a psychologist or school psychologist license who is licensed or certified in another state or territory or holds a diploma issued by the American Board of Psychology to take the examination, rather than allowing the Board to decide whether the applicant is to be required to submit to examination.⁶

Psychologist license examination

The bill requires an applicant for a psychologist license to earn a score acceptable to the Board on an examination selected by the Board, rather than on an examination conducted by the Board as currently required.⁷ The applicant must follow all necessary procedures and pay all necessary fees for the examination. An applicant who achieves an acceptable score on the examination selected by the Board as a candidate in another state or Canadian province before or after submitting an application to the Board must cause the score to be submitted directly to the Board's executive director.

⁴ R.C. 4732.10(B).

⁵ R.C. 4732.10(C).

⁶ R.C. 4732.15 (repealed); conforming changes in R.C. 102.02, 102.022, 102.03, 2152.54, 2919.271, 2945.37, and 5122.01 and Sections 3, 4, and 5.

⁷ R.C. 4732.11(A)(1) and 4732.12.

An applicant who fails to earn a score acceptable to the Board on the examination may be admitted to a subsequent examination no less than 30 days after the initial examination. After failing to earn a score acceptable to the Board on three consecutive examinations, an applicant must wait six months before being admitted to another examination. An applicant who in nine attempts fails to achieve an acceptable score is not eligible for additional admissions to the examination and the application is to be permanently closed.⁸

The bill authorizes the Board to also require an applicant for a psychologist license to earn a passing score on an oral or written examination that covers one or more of the following: (1) provisions of the Revised Code and administrative rules governing the practice of psychology, (2) related provisions of the Revised Code, (3) professional ethics principles, and (4) professional standards of care.⁹ The Board may establish procedures designed to expose the applicant to the subject matter of this examination.¹⁰

School psychologist license examination

An applicant for a school psychologist license must earn a score acceptable to the Board on an examination selected by the Board, rather than a score acceptable to a school psychologist licensing committee on an oral or written examination conducted by that committee as currently required.¹¹ The applicant must follow all necessary procedures and pay all necessary fees for the examination.¹²

The bill authorizes the Board to also require an applicant for a school psychologist license to earn a passing score on an examination that covers one or more of the following: (1) provisions of the Revised Code and rules governing the practice of psychology, (2) related provisions of the Revised Code, (3) professional ethics principles, and (4) professional standards of care.¹³ The Board may establish procedures designed to expose the applicant to the subject matter of these examinations.¹⁴

⁸ R.C. 4732.11(A)(1).

⁹ R.C. 4732.11(A)(2).

¹⁰ R.C. 4732.11(C).

¹¹ R.C. 4732.11(B)(1) and 4732.12.

¹² R.C. 4732.11(B)(1).

¹³ R.C. 4732.11(B)(2).

¹⁴ R.C. 4732.11(C).

The Board may delegate to a school psychology examination committee it appoints authority to develop this examination and any procedures designed to expose the applicant to the subject matter of the examination. This committee replaces the existing school psychology licensing committee. The membership of the committee created by the bill and terms of that committee's members are the same as those for the existing committee.¹⁵

Application fee

The bill requires an applicant for a license issued by the Board to pay a fee of \$300. Under current law, an applicant is required to pay a fee established by the Board, which can be not less than \$75 and not more than \$150.¹⁶

Persons exempt from licensure

The bill adds all the persons described below to those who are exempt from licensure by the Board.

Persons supervised by a licensed psychologist or school psychologist

Under the bill, a person who is working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist or school psychologist is exempt from licensure, provided that the person is registered with the Board. The Board must adopt rules regarding the registration process and the supervisory relationship.¹⁷ This exemption replaces two exemptions in current law: (1) an exemption for a supervisory relationship that applies only to persons holding a master's degree or doctoral degree in psychology from a program approved by the Board while working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and (2) an exemption for any person working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist or school psychologist who meets specified requirements.¹⁸

Religious officials

The bill creates an exemption from licensure for recognized religious officials, including ministers, priests, rabbis, imams, Christian science practitioners, and other persons recognized by the Board, conducting counseling when the counseling activities are within the scope of the performance of their regular duties and are performed under the auspices or sponsorship of an established and legally cognizable religious

¹⁵ R.C. 4732.11(D).

¹⁶ R.C. 4732.11, 4732.12, and 4732.15.

¹⁷ R.C. 4732.22(A)(3) and (B).

¹⁸ R.C. 4732.22(A).

denomination or sect, as defined in current federal tax regulations, and when the religious official does not refer to the official's self as a psychologist and remains accountable to the established authority of the religious denomination or sect. Current law provides an exemption only to duly ordained ministers functioning in their ministerial capacity.¹⁹

Psychologists in academic settings

The bill creates an exemption from licensure for persons using the term "social psychologist," "experimental psychologist," "developmental psychologist," "research psychologist," "cognitive psychologist," and other terms used by those in academic and research settings who possess doctoral degrees in psychology from educational institutions accredited or recognized by national or regional accrediting agencies as maintaining satisfactory standards and who do not use such a term in the solicitation or rendering of professional psychological services. Current law provides an exemption only for persons using the term "social psychologist."²⁰

Students

To be exempt from licensure under the bill, a student must be supervised by someone who is licensed by the Board or designated as a qualified supervisor pursuant to the Board's rules. Under current law, the person supervising the student must be licensed or exempt from licensure as a (1) duly ordained minister functioning in his or her ministerial capacity, (2) qualified social worker functioning in his or her capacity as a social worker, (3) professional licensed, certified, or registered as part of any other provision regulated by the Revised Code who is practicing within the standards and ethics of his or her profession, or (4) person with an earned doctorate degree in social psychology or sociology with a social psychology major using the term "social psychologist." The bill removes a requirement that, to be exempt, a student must hold himself out to the public only by clearly indicating his student status and the profession in which he is being trained.²¹

Nonresidents

For a nonresident applicant seeking a review of qualifications and permission from the Board to practice psychology in Ohio for no more than 30 days per year to be exempt from Ohio licensure, the applicant must pay a fee established by the Board, which must be not less than \$75 and not more than \$150, no part of which may be

¹⁹ R.C. 4732.22(A)(5).

²⁰ R.C. 4732.22(A)(8).

²¹ R.C. 4732.22(A)(4).

returned. The Board is authorized to adopt rules for the purpose of recognizing a nonresident's interjurisdictional practice credentials granted by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and other relevant professional organizations.²²

Persons no longer exempt from licensure

The bill removes both of the following as persons who are exempt from licensure:

--Qualified social workers while functioning in their capacity as social workers;²³

--Persons in any capacity offering services of a psychological nature, provided they neither hold themselves out to the public by the title of psychologist or school psychologist nor utilize psychological procedures that the Board judges by uniform rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to be a serious hazard to mental health and to require professional expertise in psychology.²⁴

License renewal

Renewal process

The bill requires each person who holds an active license issued by the Board to register with the Board by August 31 of each even-numbered year in a format and manner prescribed by the Board, rather than on a form prescribed by the Board as currently required.²⁵

Under both the bill and existing law, a notice must be sent to each license holder before the first day of August of each even-numbered year specifying that the biennial registration form and renewal fee must be submitted. The bill requires that this notice be sent by the Board rather than the secretary. The notice must specify two things: (1) the form and fee are due on or before the last day of September and (2) a license holder's continuing education compliance must be completed on or before the last day of August. The notice must be sent to the last provided official mailing address, rather than the last known address as required by current law. The bill removes an existing requirement that a second notice be sent by the secretary on September 15 of each even-numbered year to each person who has not paid the fee or submitted the registration form.

²² R.C. 4732.22(A)(2) and 4732.221.

²³ R.C. 4732.22(A).

²⁴ R.C. 4732.23 (repealed); conforming changes in R.C. 4755.13 and 4757.42.

²⁵ R.C. 4732.14(A).

The bill specifies that a license will automatically expire, rather than automatically be suspended, if the biennial registration form, renewal fee, or report of continuing education compliance is not received by September 30 of a renewal year.

Renewal fees

The bill maintains the current renewal fee of \$350 through June 30, 2014. It then increases the renewal fee as follows:

--From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018: \$360;

--Starting on July 1, 2018: \$365.

This fee must be paid to the Board instead of the secretary as required by existing law.

The bill specifies that a person licensed for the first time on or before September 30, rather than August 31, of an even-numbered year is required to register again on or before September 30, rather than August 31, of the next even-numbered year.²⁶

Continuing education

Requirements

Currently, as part of the 23 continuing education hours that must be completed by the end of August of each even-numbered year, a license holder must complete at least three hours in professional conduct or ethics. The bill increases this requirement to at least four hours and specifies that, in addition to professional conduct and ethics, this portion of the continuing education requirement may include education in the role of culture, ethnic identity, or both in the provision of psychological assessment, consultation, or psychological interventions, or a combination thereof.²⁷

Documentation

The bill requires a license holder to record completion of a continuing education program, in accordance with the Board's rules, with either of the following: (1) the Ohio Psychological Association, which is the same as under current law, and (2) the Ohio School Psychologists Association, instead of the State Board of Education as required by current law.²⁸

²⁶ R.C. 4732.14.

²⁷ R.C. 4732.141(A)(1).

²⁸ R.C. 4732.141(A)(2), (B)(2), and (E).

The bill removes a provision of existing law that permitted the Board to request documentation of completion of continuing education from license holders selected at random.²⁹

Under the bill, the Board may require a license holder to evidence completion of specific continuing education coursework as part of the process of registering or continuing to register a person working under the license holder's supervision and conducting psychological or psychological work or training supervision. Procedures for the completion, verification, and documentation of such continuing education must be specified in the Board's rules. A license holder completing this continuing education is permitted to receive credit toward the four-hour requirement during the next continuing education period following the completion of the continuing education.³⁰

Retired license status

The bill permits a license holder who retires from the practice of psychology or school psychology to request during the biennial license registration process that the license holder's license be placed in "licensed psychologist-retired" or "licensed school psychologist-retired" status. The license holder must pay a \$50 fee for this license status. Once the license is placed in retired status, the license holder is prohibited from practicing psychology or school psychology in Ohio.

Procedures for reinstating a retired license must be established in rules adopted by the Board.³¹

Process to reinstate expired license

The Board may reinstate an expired, rather than suspended, license within five years upon (1) payment of the current registration fee and a penalty and (2) receipt of the registration form. Under both the bill and current law, the amount of the penalty is established by the Board. The bill permits the Board to increase the penalty to up to \$250 (instead of up to \$50).³²

Required notification of change in personal information

The bill shortens the deadline for notifying the executive director, rather than the secretary, of any change in office address or employment from within 90 days to within

²⁹ R.C. 4732.141(E).

³⁰ R.C. 4732.141(H).

³¹ R.C. 4732.142; conforming change in R.C. 4732.13.

³² R.C. 4732.14(B).

60 days of the change. The bill also requires a license holder to notify the executive director of any change in the license holder's official mailing address, which is not required under current law.³³

Investigatory and subpoena power

The bill requires that the Board investigate alleged violations of laws and rules governing the practice of psychology in Ohio. Each investigation must be assigned by the executive director or designated investigator to one of the members of the board who is to serve as the supervising member of the investigation.

As part of its conduct of investigations, the Board is permitted to examine witnesses, administer oaths, and issue subpoenas, except that the Board may not compel the attendance of the respondent in an investigation. A subpoena for patient record information may be issued only if the supervising member, executive director, secretary, and an attorney from the office of the Attorney General determine that there is probable cause to believe that the complaint alleges a violation of laws governing the practice of psychology in Ohio and that the records sought are relevant to the alleged violation and material to the investigation. No member of the Board who supervises the investigation or approves the issuance of a subpoena for records may participate in further adjudication of the case. The subpoena may apply only to records that cover a reasonable period of time surrounding the alleged violation. On failure of a person to comply with a subpoena issued by the Board and after reasonable notice to that person, the Board may move for an order compelling the production of records or persons pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure.

A subpoena issued by the Board may be served by a sheriff, the sheriff's deputy, or a board employee designated by the Board. Service of a subpoena issued by the Board may be made by delivering a copy of the subpoena to the person named in the subpoena, reading it to the person, or leaving it at the person's usual place of residence. When the person being served is a person whose practice is authorized by the laws governing the practice of psychology in Ohio, service of the subpoena may be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and the subpoena must be deemed served on the date delivery is made or the date the person refuses to accept delivery.

A sheriff's deputy who serves a subpoena must receive the same fees as a sheriff. Each witness who appears before the Board in obedience to a subpoena must receive

³³ R.C. 4732.14(C).

the fees and mileage provided for witnesses under the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 119.).³⁴

The Board must conduct all investigations and proceedings in a manner that protects the confidentiality of patients and persons who file complaints with the Board. The Board must not make public the names or any other identifying information about patients or complainants unless proper consent is given or, in the case of a patient, the patient privilege has been waived by the patient. Information received by the Board pursuant to an investigation is confidential and not subject to discovery in any civil action.

The Board may share any information it receives pursuant to an investigation, including patient records and patient record information, with law enforcement agencies, other licensing boards, and other government agencies that are prosecuting, adjudicating, or investigating alleged violations of statutes or administrative rules. An agency or board that receives the information must comply with the same requirements regarding confidentiality as the Board, notwithstanding any conflicting provision of the Revised Code or procedure of the agency or board that applies when it is dealing with other information in its possession.

In a judicial proceeding, any information the Board receives pursuant to an investigation may be admitted into evidence only in accordance with the Ohio Rules of Evidence, but the court must require that appropriate measures be taken to ensure that confidentiality is maintained with respect to any part of the information that contains names or other identifying information about patients or complainants whose confidentiality was protected by the Board when the information was in the Board's possession. Measures to ensure confidentiality that may be taken by the court include sealing its records or deleting specific information from its records.³⁵

Disciplinary actions

Grounds for discipline

The bill creates eight new grounds on which the Board may take disciplinary action against an applicant or a license holder:

--A judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude in an Ohio court, a court of any other state, or a federal court;

³⁴ R.C. 4732.16(A).

³⁵ R.C. 4732.16(B).

--Inability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of a mental, emotional, physiological, or pharmacological condition or substance abuse. Under current law eliminated by the bill, the Board is permitted to take disciplinary action for a person's use of any controlled substance or alcoholic beverage to an extent that such use impairs the person's ability to perform the work of a psychologist or school psychologist with safety to the public.

--Any of the following actions taken by the agency responsible for authorizing or certifying the person to practice or regulating the person's practice of a health care occupation or provision of health care services in Ohio or another jurisdiction, as evidenced by a certified copy of that agency's records and findings for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees:

- (1) Limitation, revocation, or suspension of the person's license to practice;
- (2) Acceptance of the person's license surrender;
- (3) Denial of a license to the person;
- (4) Refuse to renew or reinstate the person's license;
- (5) Imposition of probation on the person;
- (6) Issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand against the person;
- (7) Other negative action or finding against the person about which information is available to the public.

--Offering or rendering psychological services after a license issued by the Board has expired due to the failure to timely register or complete continuing education requirements;

--Offering or rendering psychological services after a license issued by the Board has been placed in retired status;

--Unless the person is a school psychologist licensed by the State Board of Education, (1) offering or rendering school psychological services after a license issued by the Board has expired due to a failure to timely register or complete continuing education requirements or (2) offering or rendering school psychological services after a license issued by the Board has been placed in retired status;

--Violating any adjudication order or consent agreement adopted by the Board;

--Failure to submit to mental, cognitive, substance abuse, or medical evaluations, or a combination of these evaluations, ordered by the Board as disciplinary action.³⁶

The bill specifies that the Board's current authority to take disciplinary action for a conviction of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude includes pleas of guilty or no contest.³⁷ Other reasons for which the Board may take disciplinary action under current law include (1) using fraud or deceit in procuring a license, (2) accepting commissions or rebates for referring patients to other professionals, (3) willful, unauthorized communication of information received in professional confidence, (4) being negligent in the practice of psychology or school psychology, (5) violating any rule of professional conduct promulgated by the Board, (6) practicing in an area of psychology for which the person is clearly untrained or incompetent, (7) an adjudication by a court that the person is incompetent for the purpose of holding the license, and (8) waiving the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment as an enticement to a patient to receive health care services from that provider or advertising that the person will waive that payment.³⁸

Permitted disciplinary actions

On determining that there are grounds for discipline, the Board is permitted to take one or more disciplinary actions. Permitted actions are refusing to issue a license, issuing a reprimand to a license holder, suspending a license, or revoking a license. The bill adds to the actions the Board may take by allowing it to (1) limit or restrict the areas of practice of an applicant or a license holder, (2) require mental, substance abuse, or physical evaluations, or any combination of these evaluations, of an applicant or a license holder, or (3) require remedial education and training of an applicant or a license holder.³⁹

The bill permits the Board to specify that a license revocation is permanent. An individual subject to permanent revocation is forever thereafter ineligible to hold a license, and the Board is prohibited from accepting an application for reinstatement of the license or issuance of a new license.

³⁶ R.C. 4732.17(A)(2), (7), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (18).

³⁷ R.C. 4732.17(A)(1).

³⁸ R.C. 4732.17(A).

³⁹ R.C. 4732.17(C).

Procedure for disciplinary actions

Disciplinary action must be taken pursuant to the notice and hearing process in the Administrative Procedure Act. However, for purposes of suspending a license prior to holding a hearing if there is an immediate threat to the public, as permitted under current law, the bill permits the Board to use a telephone conference call to conduct an emergency meeting for review of the matter by a quorum of the Board, taking the vote, and memorializing the action in the minutes of the meeting.⁴⁰

The bill also requires the Board to adopt rules establishing a case management schedule for pre-hearing procedures by the hearing examiner or presiding Board member. The schedule must include applicable deadlines related to the hearing process, including all of the following: (1) the date of the hearing, (2) the date for disclosure of witnesses and exhibits, (3) the date for the disclosure of the identity of expert witnesses and the exchange of written reports, and (4) the deadline for submitting a request for the issuance of a subpoena for the hearing.⁴¹

Under the bill's provisions, either party to the hearing may submit a written request to the other party for a list of witnesses and copies of documents intended to be introduced at the hearing. The request must be in writing and must be served not less than 37 days prior to the hearing, unless the hearing officer or presiding Board member grants an extension of time to make the request. Not later than 30 days before the hearing, the responding party must provide the requested list of witnesses, summary of their testimony, and copies of documents to the requesting party, unless the hearing officer or presiding Board member grants an extension. Failure to timely provide a list or copies requested may, at the discretion of the hearing officer or presiding Board member, result in exclusion from the hearing of the witnesses, testimony, or documents.

In addition to subpoenas for the production of books, records, and papers requested under the Administrative Procedure Act, either party may ask the Board to issue a subpoena for the production of other tangible items. The person subject to a subpoena for the production of books, records, papers, or other tangible items must respond to the subpoena at least 20 days prior to the date of the hearing. If a person fails to respond to a subpoena issued by the Board, after providing reasonable notice to the person, the Board, the hearing officer, or both may proceed with enforcement of the subpoena pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

⁴⁰ R.C. 4732.17 and 4732.171 (repealed).

⁴¹ R.C. 4732.17(F)(2).

When the Board issues a notice of opportunity for a hearing on the basis of substance abuse or other impairment, the supervising member of the Board, with cause and upon consultation with the Board's executive director and the Board's legal counsel, may compel the applicant or license holder to submit to mental, cognitive, substance abuse, or medical evaluations, or a combination of these evaluations, by a person or persons selected by the Board. Notice must be given to the applicant or license holder in writing signed by the supervising member, the executive director, and the Board's legal counsel. The applicant or license holder is deemed to have given consent to submit to these evaluations and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of testimony or evaluation reports that constitute a privileged communication. The expense of the evaluation or evaluations must be the responsibility of the applicant or license holder who is evaluated.⁴²

License restoration

The bill permits the Board to require a person seeking restoration of a license to submit to mental, substance abuse, cognitive, or physical evaluations, or a combination of these evaluations. Evaluations must be conducted by qualified individuals selected by the Board. The costs of any evaluative processes must be paid by the applicant for restoration. A person requesting restoration of a license is deemed to have given consent to submit to a mental or physical examination when directed to do so in writing by the Board and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of testimony or examination reports that constitute a privileged communication.

The bill also permits the Board, as a further condition of license restoration, to require the applicant to (1) take the examination selected by the Board and receive a score acceptable to the Board and (2) participate in Board processes designed to expose the applicant to the laws and rules governing the practice of psychology in Ohio, which may include passing a written or oral examination. Current law permits the Board to require an examination of the applicant.

If a license is restored as permitted under current law, the bill permits the Board to impose restrictions and limitations on the practice of the license holder at the time it restores the license.⁴³

Prohibition on unlicensed practice

Under the bill, unless exempt from licensure, no person who is not a licensed psychologist may offer or render services as a psychologist, and no person who is not a

⁴² R.C. 4732.17(F)(3) and (4).

⁴³ R.C. 4732.18.

school psychologist licensed by the Board or by the State Board of Education may offer or render services as a school psychologist. A similar provision exists in current law, but it limits the prohibition to those who carry out the activities of a psychologist or school psychologist for compensation or other personal gain.⁴⁴

Use of telepsychology

The bill requires the Board to adopt rules governing the use of telepsychology for the purpose of protecting the welfare of recipients of telepsychology services and establishing requirements for the responsible use of telepsychology in the practice of psychology and school psychology, including the supervision of unlicensed persons by a licensed psychologist or school psychologist.⁴⁵ Telepsychology is the practice of psychology or school psychology by distance communication technology, including telephone, electronic mail, Internet-based communications, and video conferencing.⁴⁶

Colleague assistance program

The bill permits the Board to approve or establish a colleague assistance program for the purpose of affording license holders, license applicants, and person registered under the chapter access to all of the following:

- (1) Resources concerning the prevention of distress;
- (2) Evaluation and intervention services concerning mental, emotional, substance use, and other conditions that may impair competence, objectivity, and judgment in the provision of psychological or school psychological services;
- (3) Consultation and mentoring services for practice oversight and remediation of professional skill deficits.

The Board may compel a license holder, applicant, or registered person to participate in the program in conjunction with disciplinary actions taken by the Board.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ R.C. 4732.21.

⁴⁵ R.C. 4732.32.

⁴⁶ R.C. 4732.01(G).

⁴⁷ R.C. 4732.173(A).

If a program is approved or established, the Board must adopt rules specifying the circumstances under which self-referred participants may receive confidential services from the program.⁴⁸

Psychology definitions

Practice of psychology

The bill specifies that the practice of psychology does not include teaching or research, even when dealing with psychological subject matter, as long as it does not otherwise involve the professional practice of psychology in which an individual's, rather than a patient or client's, welfare is directly affected by the application of psychological procedures.⁴⁹

Practice of school psychology

The bill makes the following changes to the definition of "practice of school psychology":

--Includes the assessment of behavior directly related to learning problems in the issues assessed as part of the evaluation, diagnosis, or test interpretation that is currently offered as a service under the practice of school psychology, and removes a provision specifying that the issues assessed occur in an educational setting;

--Specifies that intervention services that include counseling services, rather than just counseling services, are offered under the practice of school psychology, and explains that these services address emotional and behavioral aspects of educationally related learning problems, as well as all other aspects of educationally related learning problems;

--Includes psychological consultation as a service offered under the practice of school psychology.⁵⁰

Terms

The bill changes the term "certified school psychologist" to "school psychologist licensed by the State Board of Education" and the definition of that term to an individual holding a current, valid school psychologist license issued by the State Board of Education. This change reflects a change to the laws governing licensure of teachers

⁴⁸ R.C. 4732.173(B).

⁴⁹ R.C. 4732.01.

⁵⁰ R.C. 4732.01(E).

and other regulated by the State Board of Education. Under these laws that Board issues licenses, rather than certificates, to the school psychologists it regulates.⁵¹

Fee for verification of license status

The bill requires the Board to charge a fee of \$40 to a license holder for the written verification of licensure status, including verification of the date of licensure, the presence or absence of a history of disciplinary action, and the expiration date of the license.⁵²

Structure and responsibilities of the Board

With respect to the structure and responsibilities of the Board, the bill does all of the following:

--Permits the Ohio Association of Black Psychologists to annually submit a list of candidates for the State Board of Psychology that the Governor may use to make appointments to the Board. Lists may already be submitted on an annual basis by the Ohio Psychological Association and Ohio School Psychologists Association for this purpose.⁵³

--Removes a provision of existing law that requires the Board's secretary to be compensated for his necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties;⁵⁴

--Specifies that the members of the Board and of the School Psychology Examination Committee receive an hourly amount for time expended in the discharge of their official duties, rather than an hourly amount for each day employed as under current law;⁵⁵

⁵¹ R.C. 4732.01, 4732.02, 4732.11, 4732.12, 4732.14, 4732.141, 4732.171, 4732.21, 4732.22, and 4732.31.

⁵² R.C. 4732.151.

⁵³ R.C. 4732.02.

⁵⁴ R.C. 4732.03.

⁵⁵ R.C. 4732.05.

--Prohibits the Board from conducting its business by teleconference except for the purpose of suspending a license prior to holding a hearing if there is an immediate threat to the public;⁵⁶

--Requires the Board to employ an executive director, investigators, and administrative assistants as are necessary to administer and enforce the laws governing the practice of psychology. Under current law, the Board is permitted to employ assistant and clerical help, but is not specifically required to employ an executive director or investigators.⁵⁷

--Removes a provision of existing law that requires applicants' written examination papers to be included in the records kept by the Board.⁵⁸

Technical changes

The bill also makes changes throughout the psychology licensing law to remove obsolete and out-of-date provisions⁵⁹ and makes technical corrections.⁶⁰

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-27-12

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⁵⁶ R.C. 4732.06. The bill contains an incorrect cross-reference in this provision that should be addressed in a technical amendment.

⁵⁷ R.C. 4732.06.

⁵⁸ R.C. 4732.07.

⁵⁹ R.C. 4732.02, 4732.10, 4732.14, 4732.141, 4732.15 (repealed), and 4732.21; conforming changes in R.C. 102.02, 102.022, 102.03, 2152.54, 2919.271, 2945.37, and 5122.01 and Sections 3, 4, and 5.

⁶⁰ R.C. 4732.172.