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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2004

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PSYCHOLOGISTS

Introduced By: Representative Steven F. Smith

Date Introduced: February 11, 2004

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 544-1, 544-12, 544-13 and 544-15 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 5-44 entitled "Psychologists" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-44-1. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Academic psychologist" means a person employed by or associated with a
5 recognized college or university or other recognized institution who is engaged in teaching,
6 studying, or conducting research in the science of psychology.

7 (2) "Board" means the board of psychology established by section 5-44-3.

8 (3) "Education" means the academic program pursued by a person in obtaining a
9 doctoral degree, that program to include formal course work, seminars, and practica.

10 (4) "Licensed psychologist" means a person who has been licensed for the practice of
11 psychology under this chapter. "Psychologist" as used in this chapter refers to a licensed
12 psychologist as defined in this section.

13 (5) "Practice of psychology" means the rendering of professional psychological services
14 to individuals, groups, families, or any public or private organization for remuneration.
15 Professional psychological services means applying established psychological principles,
16 methods, or procedures for the purpose of preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive or
17 undesired behavior and of enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life adjustment,
18 personal effectiveness, and mental health. The practice of psychology includes, but is not limited
19 to:

1 (i) Diagnoses and treatment of emotional, mental or behavioral dysfunction, disorder or
2 disability, alcoholism and substance abuse disorders of habit or conduct, as well as of the
3 psychological aspects of physical illness, accident, injury, or disability;

4 (ii) Psychological testing and evaluation of intelligence, personality, abilities, interests,
5 aptitudes, and neuropsychological functioning;

6 (iii) Psychoeducation evaluation, therapy, remediation and consultation; and

7 (iv) Counseling, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, biofeedback and
8 behavior analysis and therapy.

9 (6) "Psychology student" or "psychology trainee" means a student, intern, or other
10 person studying or preparing for the profession of psychologist under the supervision of
11 recognized educational or training institutions or facilities.

12 (7) "Training" means the pre-professional or professional supervised experience received
13 by the person at the pre or post-doctoral level, that experience to have been obtained in an
14 internship, clinic, or other similar professional setting.

15 (8) "School psychologist" or "licensed school mental health specialist", means a school
16 psychologist that has met the criteria outlined in section 5-44-9.1.

17 **5-44-12. Application fee.** -- The applicant applying for certification as a psychologist or
18 licensure as a licensed school mental health specialist shall pay ~~pays~~ a fee of one hundred eighty-
19 seven dollars and fifty cents (\$187.50) to the state department of health.

20 **5-44-13. Temporary permit.** -- (a) Pursuant to sections 5-44-6 and 5-44-23(e) of this
21 chapter and rules and regulations R-5-44-PSY of the Rhode Island department of health, as
22 amended, a temporary permit to practice psychology under supervision may be granted to a
23 candidate for licensure who has paid the required fee of sixty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$62.50)
24 and has satisfied the following requirements:

25 (1) Filed an application for licensure with all required supporting materials;

26 (2) Met all the requirements for admission to examination, except the requisite number
27 of hours of post-doctoral supervised experience, in a setting and manner satisfactory to the board;

28 (3) Requested, in writing, the issuance of this temporary ~~p~~ermit for the purpose of
29 meeting the supervision requirement;

30 (4) Refrained from using the title "psychologist" or licensed school mental health
31 specialist representing himself or herself as ~~a psychologist such~~ other than by using the title
32 "psychology student" ~~or~~ "psychology trainee or "licensed school mental health specialist trainee";
33 and

34 (5) Completed the requisite number of hours of post-doctoral experience within three (3)

1 years of the date of the temporary permit.

2 (b) The temporary permit expires upon notice of passing or failing the examination for
3 licensure. If the candidate fails the examination, the permit may be extended under further
4 requirements established by the board.

5 **5-44-15. Expiration and renewal of licenses -- Continuing education -- Lapsed**

6 **license.** -- (a) The license of every person licensed under the provisions of this chapter expires on
7 the first day of July next following the date of his or her license.

8 (b) On or before the first day of May in each year, the administrator mails an application
9 for renewal of license to every person to whom a license has been issued or renewed during the
10 current year.

11 (c) Every licensed person who desires to renew his or her license files with the division a
12 renewal application, executed, together with a renewal fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars
13 (\$125), on or before the first day of June in each year. Upon receipt of a renewal application and
14 payment of the renewal fee, the accuracy of the application shall be verified and the administrator
15 of professional regulation shall grant a renewal license effective July 1st and expiring the
16 following June 30th.

17 (d) Every licensed psychologist who desires to continue licensure as a licensed
18 psychologist shall present satisfactory evidence to the board and approved by rule or regulation of
19 the board that the licensed psychologist has completed a prescribed course of continuing licensed
20 psychological education.

21 (e) Any person who allows his or her license to lapse, by failing to renew it on or before
22 June 1st in each year, as provided in this section, may be reinstated by the administrator of
23 professional regulation on payment of the current renewal fee, plus an additional fee of twenty-
24 five dollars (\$25.00). Any person using the title "psychologist" or offering services defined as the
25 practice of psychology under this chapter during the time his or her license has lapsed is subject
26 to the penalties provided for violation of this chapter.

27 (f) Every licensed school mental health specialist, shall include a signed statement
28 attesting to the satisfactory completion of the renewal criteria for a Nationally Certified School
29 Psychologist (NCSP) that shall consist of:

30 Completion of seventy five (75) contract hours of continuing professional development
31 activities as outlined by the National Association of School Psychologist's requirements for
32 NCSP credentialing, within a three-year period.

33

34 SECTION 2. Chapter 544 of the General Laws entitled "Psychologists" is hereby

1 amended by adding thereto the following sections:

2 **5-44-9.1. Qualifications for licensed school mental health specialist.** – An applicant
3 for licensure shall submit to the board written evidence on forms furnished by the division of
4 professional regulation verified under oath that said applicant:

5 (a) Is of good moral character;

6 (b) Has obtained a graduate degree in school psychology by an approved school
7 psychology program equal to or exceeding sixty (60) graduate credits with one thousand two
8 hundred (1,200) hours of supervised school psychology experience.

9 (c) Has two (2) years or two thousand four hundred (2,400) hours of post graduate
10 supervised experience in as a school psychologist.

11 (d) Passed the educational testing service's (ETS) school psychology examination as
12 determined by the national school psychology certification board.

13 (e) Has obtained credentialing as a nationally certified school psychologist by the
14 national association of school psychologists (which requires (b), (c), and (d) above).

15 (f) Is in compliance with subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) or (a) and (e) of this section.

16 **5-44-9.2. Requirements for a licensed school mental health specialist.** – An applicant
17 for licensure as a licensed school mental health specialist, shall hold an advanced graduate degree
18 in school psychology from a regionally accredited college or university whose program of study
19 was accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), and/ or the National
20 Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

21 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PSYCHOLOGISTS

- 1 This act would add licensing requirements for school mental health specialists to the
- 2 provisions of the general law which regulate psychologists.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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