

2016 -- H 8199

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - PSYCHOLOGISTS

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, McNamara, Blazejewski, and Naughton

Date Introduced: May 11, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 5-44-1, 5-44-12 and 5-44-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-44
2 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 § 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 means a licensed
12 psychologist as defined in this section.

13 (5) "Licensed school psychologist" means a school psychologist who meets the
14 qualifications set forth in §5-44-9.1.

15 ~~(5)~~(6) "Practice of psychology" means the rendering of professional psychological
16 services to individuals, groups, families, or any public or private organization for remuneration.
17 Professional psychological services means applying established psychological principles,
18 methods, or procedures for the purpose of preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive or
19 undesired behavior and of enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life adjustment,

1 personal effectiveness, and mental health. The practice of psychology includes, but is not limited
2 to:

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

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

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

9 (iv) Counseling, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, biofeedback and
10 behavior analysis and therapy.

11 ~~(6)~~(7) "Psychology student", "psychology trainee", "psychology intern", or "psychology
12 resident" means a student, intern, or other person studying or preparing for the profession of
13 psychologist under the supervision of recognized educational or training institutions or facilities.

14 ~~(7)~~(8) "Training" means the pre-professional or professional supervised experience
15 received by the person at the pre or post-doctoral level, that experience to have been obtained in
16 an internship, clinic, or other similar professional setting.

17 ~~(8)~~(9) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of health.

18 ~~(9)~~(10) "Director" means the director of the Rhode Island department of health.

19 **5-44-12. Application fee.** -- The applicant applying for licensure as a psychologist or a
20 licensed school psychologist shall pay a fee as set forth in § 23-1-54 to the department.

21 **5-44-13. Temporary license.** -- (a) Pursuant to §§ 5-44-6 and 5-44-23(e) of this chapter
22 and rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, a temporary permit to practice psychology
23 under supervision may be granted to a candidate for licensure who has paid the required fee as set
24 forth in § 23-1-54 and has satisfied the following requirements:

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

26 (2) Has received a doctoral degree in accordance with § 5-44-10, and successfully
27 completed one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of supervision satisfactory to the board as
28 specified in the rules and regulations;

29 (3) Shall only practice under the appropriate supervision of a licensed psychologist as
30 delineated in the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder;

31 (4) Shall refrain from using the title "psychologist" or "licensed school psychologist" or
32 representing himself or herself as a psychologist other than by using the title "psychology
33 student", "psychology trainee" or "psychology intern", or "psychology resident" or "licensed
34 school psychologist trainee"; and

1 (5) The temporary permit shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of
2 issuance.

3 (b) Temporary permit holders may request from the board a one year extension. Such an
4 extension may be granted at the discretion of the board upon review of the applicant's
5 circumstances. This extension shall only be granted once.

6 **5-44-15. Expiration and renewal of licenses -- Continuing education -- Lapsed**
7 **license.** -- (a) The license of every person licensed under the provisions of this chapter shall
8 expire on the first day of July of the next even-numbered year following the issuance of his or her
9 license.

10 (b) On or before the first day of May of each even-numbered year, the department shall
11 mail an application for renewal of license to every person to whom a license has been issued or
12 renewed during the cycle.

13 (c) Every licensed person who desires to renew his or her license shall file with the
14 department a renewal application, executed, together with a renewal fee as set forth in § 23-1-54,
15 on or before the first day of June in each even-numbered year. Upon receipt of a renewal
16 application and payment of the renewal fee, the accuracy of the application shall be verified and
17 the department may grant a renewal license effective July 1st and expiring the June 30th in each
18 even-numbered year.

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

24 (e) Any person who allows his or her license to lapse, by failing to renew it on or before
25 June 1st in each even-numbered year, as provided in this section, may be reinstated by the
26 department on payment of the current renewal fee, plus an additional fee as set forth in § 23-1-54.
27 Any person using the title "psychologist" or offering services defined as the practice of
28 psychology under this chapter during the time his or her license has lapsed is subject to the
29 penalties provided for violation of this chapter.

30 SECTION 2. Chapter 5-44 of the General Laws entitled "Psychologists" is hereby
31 amended by adding thereto the following section:

32 **5-44-9.1. Qualifications for licensed school psychologist.** – [An applicant for licensure](#)
33 [shall submit to the board written evidence on forms furnished by the professional regulation unit](#)
34 [of the department of labor and training verified under oath, that said applicant:](#)

- 1 (1) Is of good moral character;
- 2 (2) Has obtained an advanced graduate degree in school psychology from a regionally
3 accredited college or university whose school psychology program is accredited by the American
4 Psychological Association and/or the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and
5 requires at least sixty (60) graduate credits with one thousand two hundred (1,200) hours of
6 supervised school psychology experience.
- 7 (3) Has two (2) years of two thousand four hundred (2,400) hours of postgraduate
8 supervised experience as a school psychologist.
- 9 (4) Has passed the Educational Testing Service's School Psychology Examination as
10 determined by the National School Psychology Certification Board.
- 11 (5) Has obtained credentials as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist by the
12 National Association of School Psychologists.
- 13 (6) Has satisfied either subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) or (1) and (5) of this section.
- 14 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - PSYCHOLOGISTS

- 1 This act would include licensed school psychologists under the provisions of the general
- 2 laws governing the regulations of psychologists.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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