



HB 276

**MODEL LICENSING ACT for
PSYCHOLOGISTS AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES**

Alaska Psychological Association

- ▶ Represent the scientific and professional interests of AK-PA membership to the American Psychological Association (APA).
- ▶ 127 members in 2021, the membership consists of
 - ▶ Licensed Psychologists and Psychological Associates
 - ▶ LMFT, LPC, LSW, LCSW, ANP, PMHNP
 - ▶ University or college faculty or other non-clinical professionals with a masters or doctorate in psychology
 - ▶ Grad Students



Alaska Psychological Association

Mission:

The purpose of Alaska Psychological Association is to promote the advancement, communication, and application of psychological science and knowledge to improve the lives of all Alaskans.



Model Licensing Act History

- ▶ AK-PA learned of APA's Model Licensing Act (MLA) at the 2017 American Psychological Association annual Practice Leadership Conference
- ▶ The AK-PA conference delegation created a committee to hold a series of work-sessions open to members and public to gauge interest and accept input from a wide constituency.
- ▶ In 2018, work sessions examined and discussed the current licensing classifications and licensing requirements, then gained interest and support for introducing an MLA for Alaska.



Current Licensing for Psychologists and Psychological Associates

- ▶ Currently, Alaska's Statutes and Regulations for Psychologists and Psychological Associates provide for obtaining a license or obtaining a temporary license.
- ▶ 324 licensed Psychologists
- ▶ 36 Psychological Associates in the state
 - ▶ 2021 data from Psychology and Psychological Assoc. Examiner Board



HB 276 MLA Introduces a Middle Ground

1. Amend how student supervised hours are acquired - this is the core for developing the MLA
2. Introduction of a **Part Time License** for both psychologists and psychological associates
3. Introduction of an **Inactive License** for both psychologists and psychological associates
4. Better defines who the Practice of Psychology does not apply to by including Contractors for a Tribal Health Organization licensed in another state.



Amend how Graduate Student Supervised Hours are Acquired

- ▶ Follows the national trend to allow 3000 hours to be completed before graduation through practicum, internship, or postdoctoral experience
- ▶ Does not alter the quality or quantity of training
- ▶ 17 states allow the re-sequencing of training hours
- ▶ Follows the model used by medical schools
- ▶ Allows students to get licensed and enter the workforce sooner to benefit Alaskans



Introduce a Part Time License

- ▶ This new classification would allow senior career licensed psychologists and senior career licensed psychological associates approaching retirement to continue their practice with limited hours and continue to use their respective titles as licensed providers in writing papers, research, presenting continuing education
- ▶ Must be licensed for at 20 years
- ▶ Engaged in the practice for not more than 20 hours a week.



Introduce an Inactive License

- ▶ The APA Model Licensing Act notes an Inactive License for “psychologists who suffering from health problems, are on military assignment outside the state, on sabbatical, retired, or who move to another state may wish to be on inactive status.”
- ▶ Relieving the psychologist from paying full licensing fees while in ‘inactive’ status will make it possible for that person to remain in good standing without being an active practitioner.



Practice of Psychology does not apply to

An officer, employee, or contractor of the United States Government or a tribal organization who is licensed to practice psychology in another state and is practicing psychology while in the discharge of the officer's employee's, or contractor's official duties.



Q & A

Thank you for your time

