

HOUSE BILL NO. 276

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/18/22

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to licensing of psychologists and psychological associates; and relating**
2 **to the practice of psychology."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 08.86.070 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 08.86.070. Duties of the board.** The board shall

6 (1) establish objective examination requirements for persons who
7 apply for a license to practice psychology in the state;

8 (2) examine, or cause to be examined, eligible license applicants;

9 (3) approve the issuance of licenses to qualified applicants;

10 (4) adopt regulations establishing standards **and a code of ethics** for
11 the practice of psychology;

12 (5) impose disciplinary sanctions as authorized by this chapter;

13 (6) adopt regulations requiring proof of continued competency for
14 license renewal;

(7) review, when requested by the department, the quality and availability of psychological services in the state;

(8) compile information for submission to the department on the practice of psychology by psychologists and psychological associates in the state;

(9) maintain an active membership with a national association of psychology boards.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.86.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) The board shall issue a psychologist license to a person who

(1) holds an earned doctorate degree, from an academic institution whose program of graduate study for a doctorate degree in psychology meets the criteria established by the board by regulation, in

(A) clinical psychology;

(B) counseling psychology; or

(C) education in a field of specialization considered equivalent by the board;

(2) has not engaged in dishonorable conduct related to the practice of counseling or psychometry;

(3) has **completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised professional experience gained through practicum, internship, or postdoctoral experience approved by the board, or organized through a combination of those;** [ONE YEAR OF POST DOCTORAL SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND]

(4) takes and passes the objective examination developed or approved by the board;

(5) has submitted an application on a form approved by the board that includes a brief written account of the person's education, qualifications, and work history and proof of the person's competence to practice psychology; and

(6) provides the documents specified in (c) of this section.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.86.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) The board may not require an applicant under (a) of this section to submit verification of credentials other than those listed in this subsection. An applicant shall

1 provide the following, to be submitted to the board directly from the applicable
 2 agency, person, licensing jurisdiction, school, or national association of psychology
 3 boards credentials bank:

4 (1) a copy of each health-related professional license or certificate
 5 issued by a state or Canada;

6 (2) an official transcript from each undergraduate or graduate school
 7 from which the applicant holds a degree;

8 (3) a score report verifying that the applicant has passed an
 9 examination developed or approved by the board under (a)(4) of this section; and

10 (4) three letters of recommendation from professional sources familiar
 11 with the applicant's work of the previous five years.

12 * **Sec. 4.** AS 08.86 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 **Sec. 08.86.132. Part-time license.** (a) The board may issue a part-time
 14 psychologist license to a person who

15 (1) meets the requirements of AS 08.86.130 or 08.86.150; and

16 (2) has been licensed to practice psychology under this chapter for at
 17 least 20 years.

18 (b) A person holding a part-time psychologist license under this section may

19 (1) engage in the practice of psychology for not more than 20 hours a
 20 week; and

21 (2) convert the license to an active license by applying to the board and
 22 paying the required fees.

23 (c) A person holding a part-time psychologist license shall meet the
 24 continuing competency requirements established by the board under AS 08.86.070 for
 25 a person licensed under AS 08.86.130.

26 * **Sec. 5.** AS 08.86.140(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) The department shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for the following:

28 (1) application;

29 (2) examination;

30 (3) credential review;

31 (4) initial license;

(5) license renewal;

(6) initial inactive license;

(7) inactive license renewal;

(8) initial part-time license;

(9) part-time license renewal.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 08.86.150 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(b) The board may not require an applicant under (a) of this section to submit verification of credentials other than those listed in (a) of this section.

(c) The board may, without unreasonable delay, investigate an academic program completed by an applicant under (a) of this section and, if the board determines that the academic program is not acceptable, may deny an application submitted under (a) of this section.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 08.86 is amended by adding a new section to article 3 to read:

Sec. 08.86.155. Inactive license status. (a) A person licensed to practice psychology under this chapter who does not practice in the state may convert a license to inactive status when renewing the license. A person who practices in the state, however infrequently, shall hold an active or part-time license. A person renewing an inactive license shall meet the same renewal requirements that would be applicable if the person were renewing an active license.

(b) A person holding an inactive license may reactivate the license by

(1) completing and providing proof of having completed at least 40 hours of continuing education in the preceding two years;

(2) applying for an active or part-time license; and

(3) paying the required fees.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 08.86 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 08.86.165. Part-time psychological associate license. (a) The board may issue a part-time psychological associate license to a person who

(1) meets the requirements of AS 08.86.160; and

(2) has been licensed as a psychological associate under this chapter for at least 20 years.

(b) A person holding a part-time psychological associate license under this

1 section may

2 (1) engage in practice, as described in AS 08.86.164, for not more than
3 20 hours a week; and

4 (2) convert the license to an active license by applying to the board and
5 paying the required fees.

6 (c) A person holding a part-time psychological associate license shall meet the
7 continuing competency requirements established by the board under AS 08.86.070 for
8 a person licensed under AS 08.86.160.

9 * **Sec. 9.** AS 08.86 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to read:

10 **Sec. 08.86.168. Inactive psychological associate license.** (a) A person
11 licensed as a psychological associate under this chapter who does not practice in the
12 state may convert a license to inactive status when renewing the license. A person who
13 practices in the state, however infrequently, shall hold an active or part-time license. A
14 person renewing an inactive license shall meet the same renewal requirements that
15 would be applicable if the person were renewing an active license.

16 (b) A person holding an inactive license may reactivate the license by
17 applying for an active or part-time license and paying the required fees.

18 * **Sec. 10.** AS 08.86.180(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) This section does not apply to

20 (1) a person employed as a school psychologist, if the school district
21 maintains appropriate supervision of psychological activities and professional conduct,
22 and if the person is performing the psychological activities as part of the duties for
23 which the person was employed, is performing the activities solely within the facilities
24 of the school district in which the person is employed or under the supervision of the
25 school district, and does not render or offer to render psychological services to the
26 public for compensation in addition to the salary the person receives from the school
27 district;

28 (2) an officer, [OR] employee, or contractor of the United States
29 government or a tribal organization who is licensed to practice psychology in
30 another state and is practicing psychology while in the discharge of the officer's,
31 [OR] employee's, or contractor's official duties;

1 (3) a student, intern, or resident in psychology pursuing a course of
2 study approved by the board as qualifying training and experience for a psychologist,
3 if that person's activities constitute a part of that person's supervised course of study
4 and that person is designated by titles such as "psychology intern" or "psychology
5 trainee";

6 (4) a qualified member of another profession, in doing work of a
7 psychological nature consistent with that person's training and consistent with the code
8 of ethics of that person's profession, if the person does not hold out to the public by a
9 title or description of services incorporating the words "psychology," "psychological,"
10 "psychologist," "psychometry," "psychotherapy," "psychotherapeutic,"
11 "psychotherapist," "psychoanalysis," or "psychoanalyst" or represent to be trained,
12 experienced, or qualified to render services in the field of psychology; or

13 (5) a physician engaged in the normal practice of medicine for which
14 the physician is licensed under AS 08.64.

15 * **Sec. 11.** AS 08.86.180 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 (e) In this section, "tribal organization" has the meaning given in 25 U.S.C.
17 5304.