

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 276(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/25/22

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (A) clinical psychology;

13 (B) counseling psychology; or

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

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

18 (3) has one year of post doctoral supervised experience approved by
19 the board; [AND]

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

22 **(5) provides the documents specified in (c) of this section.**

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

24 (c) The board may not require an applicant under (a) of this section to submit
25 verification of credentials other than those listed in this subsection. An applicant shall
26 provide the following, to be submitted to the board directly from the applicable
27 agency, person, licensing jurisdiction, school, or national association of psychology
28 boards credentials bank:

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

31 (2) an official transcript from each undergraduate or graduate school

1 from which the applicant holds a degree;

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

4 (4) letters of reference, as established in regulations adopted by the
5 board, from professional sources in the field of behavioral health familiar with the
6 applicant's clinical level work of the previous five years.

7 * **Sec. 4.** AS 08.86.140(a) is amended to read:

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

9 (1) application;

10 (2) examination;

11 (3) credential review;

12 (4) initial license;

13 (5) license renewal;

14 **(6) initial inactive license;**

15 **(7) inactive license renewal.**

16 * **Sec. 5.** AS 08.86.150 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

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

19 (c) The board may investigate an academic program completed by an
20 applicant under (a) of this section and, if the board determines that the academic
21 program is not acceptable, may deny an application submitted under (a) of this section.

22 * **Sec. 6.** AS 08.86 is amended by adding a new section to article 3 to read:

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

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

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

1 (2) applying for an active license; and

2 (3) paying the required fees.

3 * **Sec. 7.** AS 08.86 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to read:

4 **Sec. 08.86.168. Inactive psychological associate license.** (a) A person
5 licensed as a psychological associate under this chapter who does not practice in the
6 state may convert a license to inactive status when renewing the license. A person who
7 practices in the state, however infrequently, shall hold an active license. A person
8 renewing an inactive license shall meet the same renewal requirements that would be
9 applicable if the person were renewing an active license.

10 (b) A person holding an inactive license may reactivate the license by
11 applying for an active license and paying the required fees.