

H B

181

Register

PROFESSIONAL AND
VOCATIONAL

12 AAC 60.090
12 AAC 60.950

PROPOSED REGULATIONS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS

12 AAC 60.090(a) and (b) are repealed.

12 AAC 60 is amended by adding a new article to read:

ARTICLE 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

950. Definitions

12 AAC 60.950. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter and AS 08.86:

(1) "accreditation" means:

(A) an accredited school is one which is accredited by any regional accrediting agency recognized by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Offices.

(B) an accredited doctoral program is one which has been approved by the American Psychological Association or which is clearly equivalent to the standard used by the American Psychological Association. The burden of establishing equivalent standards rests with the applicant.

(2) "reasonable cause or excusable neglect" means:

(A) chronic illness;

(B) retirement;

(C) military service; and

(D) hardships as individually determined by the board.

(3) "technical meeting" means a professional meeting incorporating formal written or oral presentations of psychology related research, theory or applied topics.

(4) "appropriate supervision" as used in AS 08.86.180(b)(1) means supervision by a licensed psychologist consistent with accepted professional priorities in psychology and with the supervising licensed being responsible for insuring the extent, kind, and quality of the psychological services performed are consistent with the training and experience of the supervised person.

(5) "professional incompetence" as used in AS 08.86.204(7)(A) means lacking sufficient knowledge,

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12 AAC 60.950

skills, or professional judgement in that field of practice in which the psychologist or psychological associate concerned engages, to a degree likely to endanger the mental health or well-being of his or her patients. (Eff. / / ,
Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.080

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12 AAC 60.185
12 AAC 60.260

12 AAC 60 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 AAC 60.185. ETHICS AND STANDARDS. (a) The ethics to be adhered to by licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates shall be the "Ethical Principles of Psychologists," (1981 revision), of the American Psychological Association.

(b) The standards to be adhered to by licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates rendering psychological services in the state shall be the "Standards for Providers of Psychological Services," (January 1977 edition), of the American Psychological Association. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.080

12 AAC 60 is amended by adding a new article to read:

ARTICLE 6. CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section

- 250. Statement of purpose of continuing education
- 260. Hours of continuing education required
- 270. Computation of continuing education
- 280. Computation of academic continuing education hours
- 290. Accepted subjects
- 300. Approved nonacademic continuing education programs
- 310. Individual study
- 320. Instructor or discussion leader
- 330. Publications and presentations
- 340. Reinstatement
- 350. Report of continuing education

12 AAC 60.250. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. The purpose of continuing psychology education is to insure that the renewal of licenses is contingent upon proof of continued competency and assure the consumer of an optimum quality of psychological health care by requiring licensed psychologists and psychological associates to pursue education designed to enhance and advance their professional skills and knowledge. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.260. HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED. (a) An applicant for renewal of a license as a psychologist, or a psychological associate, originally issued before July 1, 1981, shall obtain 40 credit hours of documented continuing education before the June 30, 1985 application for renewal.

(b) Each psychologist or psychological associate seeking renewal of his or her license on or after July 1, 1985, must obtain an average of 20 credit hours per year of

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12 AAC 60.270
12 AAC 60.300

documented continuing education during the previous licensing period. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.270. COMPUTATION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. (a) For the purposes of 12 AAC 60.250--12 AAC 60.310, 50 minutes of instruction constitutes one hour.

(b) Credit is given only for full hours of instruction received and not for a fraction of an hour.

(c) Credit is given only for class attendance hours and not for hours devoted to class preparation. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.280. COMPUTATION OF ACADEMIC CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. (a) One quarter hour academic credit from a college or university constitutes 10 hours of continuing education.

(b) One semester hour academic credit from a college or university constitutes 15 hours of continuing education. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.290. ACCEPTED SUBJECTS. (a) In order to be accepted by the board, the subject of a continuing education program must contribute directly to the professional competency of a person licensed to practice as a psychologist or a psychological associate and be directly related to the concepts of psychological principles, ethics or practices as defined in AS 08.86.230(2). (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(5)

12 AAC 60.300. ACCEPTED NONACADEMIC CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) The following programs are accepted by the board if they meet the requirements of 12 AAC 60.290:

(1) professional development programs of the American Psychological Association and its state societies including workshops, seminars, symposia, or a presentation of a technical paper;

(2) college or university short courses not carrying academic credit; and

(3) other professional continuing education programs if information is supplied to the board as follows:

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12 AAC 60.310
12 AAC 60.330

(A) name and address of person or organization sponsoring the course;

(B) instructor's name;

(C) title of course; and

(D) the number of full fifty minute hours of actual instruction; and

(E) the location and dates the course was conducted. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.310. INDIVIDUAL STUDY. (a) The number of hours of continuing education credit awarded for completion of a formal correspondence program, videotape program, audio-cassette program, or other individual study program which requires registration and provides evidence of satisfactory completion will be determined by the board on an individual basis.

(b) Continuing education credit awarded under this section may not exceed one half of the total continuing education hours required in any licensing renewal period. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.320. INSTRUCTOR OR DISCUSSION LEADER. (a) One hour of continuing education credit is awarded for each hour completed as an instructor or discussion leader of educational programs meeting the requirements of 12 AAC 60.250-.310. Credit is awarded only for the initial course of instruction of the subject matter unless there have been substantially new developments in the subject since the prior presentation.

(b) Credit awarded under (a) of this section may not exceed one-third of the hours in any licensing period. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.330. PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS. (a) Twenty (20) credit hours of continuing education will be awarded for each

(1) authorship of a publication in a professional psychology journal, providing the publication relates directly to the concepts of psychological principles, ethics or practices, and is published or accepted for publication during the four year reporting period immediately preceding the license renewal; and

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12 AAC 60.340
12 AAC 60.350

(2) written or oral presentation at a meeting of the American Psychological Association, a technical meeting of a State psychology society, or meeting of a professional psychology-oriented organization, providing the presentation relates directly to the concepts of psychological principles, ethics or practices, and the presentation occurred during the four-year reporting period immediately preceding the license renewal; or

(3) authorship of a professional psychology book or monograph published or accepted for publication during the four year reporting period immediately preceding the license renewal. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.340. REINSTATEMENT. (a) The license of any licensee which is not renewed by reason of failure to comply with the continuing education requirements of 12 AAC 60.250-.380, will be reinstated or restored to full status by submission to the board of proof of the completion of all continuing education credit hours required.

(b) A licensee unable to obtain the required continuing education hours for renewal of his or her license, due to reasonable cause or excusable neglect, must request exemption status in writing to the board accompanied by a statement explaining reasonable cause or excusable neglect. The board will prescribe an alternative method of compliance to the continuing education requirements as deemed appropriate to the individual situation. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.350. REPORT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a) An applicant for renewal of a license to practice psychology shall submit, on a form provided by the department, a sworn statement of the continuing education in which he or she participated or pursued. The statement must indicate:

- (1) the sponsoring organization;
- (2) the location of the course or correspondent;
- (3) the title or description of course or both;
- (4) the principal instructor;
- (5) the dates of attendance or period of correspondence;
- (6) the titles, issues and dates of publications or presentations; and

(7) the number of continuing education hours claimed.

(b) Falsification of any written evidence submitted to the board pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be unprofessional conduct and constitute grounds for licensure reprimand, revocation or suspension. (Eff / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

POUCH D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-2534

September 24, 1982

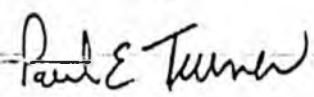
Mr. Harry D. Treager, Director
Division of Occupational Licensing
Department of Commerce and
Economic Development
Pouch D
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Treager:

In compliance with AS 37 and AS 08 and on behalf of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiner, I am submitting the enclosed Annual Report concerning the board's activities and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 1982.

Should there be any questions concerning this report, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Turner, Ph.D., Secretary
Board of Psychologist and Psychological
Associate Examiners

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Enclosure

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING
JUNEAU, ALASKA
SEP 24 1982

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

The board undertook several major projects during FY '82 including (1) Sunset Audit, (2) Continued Education Regulations, (3) Examination Revision, and (4) Enforcement of the Practice Act.

Summary of the activity of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners for FY '82: The level of board activity during FY '82 has been maintained at a relatively high level of productivity commensurate with the work completed during FY '81.

A substantive portion of the board's time has been spent dealing with issues related to the Sunset review. This process began in the summer of 1981 and continued through the end of May, 1982. The board responded to an audit by the Budget and Audit Committee of the Legislature in writing. The board has testified at legislative hearings regarding the Sunset of the board. Further, the board has written several responses to the Sunset hearings subsequent to the division's opposition to the board and the Governor's veto. Throughout this legislative process, the board has attempted to introduce several statutory changes, although these have been unsupported by the Division of Occupational Licensing.

A great deal of effort has been devoted to drafting continuing education regulations which has been the subject of over a year's effort toward establishing criteria that are equitable, effective, and relevant to Alaskans across the wide range of community settings in which Psychologists and Associates often find themselves. The continuing education regulations have been through one public teleconference hearing and are in a draft that is presently acceptable for a final period of written comment and testimony from the public.

Investigative activities of the board seem to have declined during this past year. Unfortunately, an investigator was present at only one meeting during the past fiscal year. At its March meeting, the chief investigator met with the board to review the current status of cases pending.

Licensing activities seem to have increased during this past year in that nine Psychologists and five Psychological Associates have sat for the two examinations held in October and April during the past fiscal year. As a consequence, eight new Psychologists and three associates have been licensed to practice. The trend toward an increased number of Associates is seen as evidence that master level individuals are being encouraged to enter the field, and secondly, the public is benefiting by a wider spectrum of individuals who are licensed to practice. At the present time, there are 81 active Psychology licenses and 10 Psychological Associate licenses.

The State portion of the examination has been significantly revised. For the April examination, the board eliminated a large portion of the exam which now focuses on law and ethics alone. This has allowed the board to devote a great deal of time to establishing a item pool for this area and to establish criteria on scoring sheets for this examination. Further, this has resulted in a more efficient and accurate means of quickly reporting scores back to individuals who are taking the examination.

The Attorney General's opinion on the conduct and record of board meetings, to assure compliance with AS 44.62.310 and AS 44.62.312, has maintained improved conduct of board meetings and increased documentation of board activity. Further, the division has markedly improved its recordkeeping in the transcription of minutes of board meetings. All aspects of board meetings are presently taped.

Public activity and information has been a major target area for the board during FY '82. Public hearings have been held relative to propagation of continuing education regulations. The board has made continual progress in the provision of information to a variety of groups and individual private parties relative to psychology licensing. Members of the board have provided information to the Alaska Social Workers Association, the Alaska Psychological Association, Alaska School Psychologists Association, Alaska Mental Health Association, Alaska Mental Health Director's Association, and Governor's Advisory Council for Mental Health. All board meetings have been advertised across the State.

Dr. Jim Greenough was appointed to the board during this last fiscal year.

The Licensing Examiner I for the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners was Evelyn Boone. The License Examiner II (supervisor) for the Division of Occupational Licensing was Mrs. Jane English. The Director for the Division of Occupational Licensing for the past fiscal year has been Mr. Harry Treager.

EXAMINATIONS

The board held two examinations during the period of October 8-9, 1981 and April 8-9, 1982. The Licensing Examiner administered the first examination, and the Division of Occupational Licensing arranged for Anchorage personnel to administer the second examination. Three candidates took the exam in October, and three individuals successfully passed the examination. There were ten candidates who took the exam in April and six individuals completed the exam.

The Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners had a goal of four meetings, but was only able to meet three times, due to budget constraints.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
August, 1981	Sitka
November, 1981	Fairbanks
March, 1982	Juneau

Associated with the volume of work that comes up in the interim between meetings, conference calls are utilized as a means to expedite important board business. Conference calls were held on the following dates:

October 9, 1981
April 1, 1982

STATISTICAL DATA

<u>Licenses Issued</u>	<u>FY '80</u>	<u>FY '81</u>	<u>FY '82</u>
Examination	12	3	7
Endorsement	3	2	0
Psychological Associate (Exam)	3	3	2
Temporary Permits	1	1	2

Expenditures for Fiscal Years '80, '81, '82TRAVEL

	<u>FY '80</u>	<u>FY '81</u>	<u>FY '82</u>
In-State transportation (Examiner)	\$ 960.51	\$ 1,352.00	\$ 732.00
In-State per diem (Examiner)	509.85	864.35	629.00
In-State transportation (Board)	1,430.00	2,094.85	4,800.00
In-State per diem (Board)	1,020.00	2,064.00	3,570.00
Subtotal - Travel	<u>\$3,920.36</u>	<u>\$ 6,375.20</u>	<u>\$ 9,731.00</u>

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Postage & Mailing	\$ 22.97	\$ 1.75	\$ -0-
Long Distance telephone	724.97	532.74	434.91
Photo Processing	137.47	219.70	267.00
Printing & Binding	98.00	--	110.00
Advertising	269.53	677.97	1,079.40
Professional Services	692.50	319.00	725.00
Membership Dues/Fees	169.00	350.00	345.50
Subtotal	<u>\$2,114.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,101.16</u>	<u>\$ 2,961.81</u>

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Office/Library Supplies	\$ 91.00	\$ --	\$ --
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,125.36	\$ 8,476.36	12,692.81
Monies received for Fiscal Year	\$ 765.00	\$11,344.75	\$ 9,545.00

REVIEW OF PRIOR YEAR OBJECTIVES

Objective 1. The board has revised the scoring sheets and scoring system for the examination, reducing the response time for scoring the examinations, improving objectivity of scoring, and improving the accuracy of the compilation of test scores. In April, 1982, the board developed an items pool for the State examination. This State examination consists of an essay in law and ethics relative to the practices of psychology within the State of Alaska. An expanded item pool has been developed for this examination.

Objective 2: A third draft of continuing education regulations has been completed. A teleconference was held on these regulations in Sitka. No hearings have been scheduled since the last meeting in March as the division has reported that a teleconference network cannot be obtained until the end of the legislative session.

Objective 3: The board has been actively involved in the Sunset audit. The chairperson, Dr. Delys-Baglien, responded to the Office of Budget and Audit's report during the summer of 1981. The Division of Budget and Audit's report was not completed until December of 1981. Hearings were held on March 9 by a joint House and Senate subcommittee. SB 823 was introduced to both the House and Senate and successfully passed despite the division's opposition to the continuation of the board. Three members of the board testified at the March 9 hearing and a written response to the division's opposition to the board was made.

Objective 4: No member of the board was able to attend the regional AASBP meeting at the Western Psychological Association, nor was any member of the board able to attend the National AASBP meeting at the American Psychological Association. Board members received the AASBP newsletter to keep them up to date as to relevant issues for licensing. Board members also received a journal, Professional Practice of Psychology. The Secretary and Chairperson of the board have been actively involved with the division via telephone and correspondence to deal with intermittent board business.

Objective 5: An extensive effort to keep the public informed of board activities and to increase the public's knowledge of the practice of psychology has been made. Board members have responded to individual questions, complaints, and concerns related to the practice of psychology in the State. The board has held a public hearing on continuing education regulations. Individual members of the board have provided information to the public and have attended meetings of the Alaska Social Workers Association, Alaska Mental Health Association, Alaska Mental Health Director's Association, Governor's Advisory Council for Mental Health, Alaska Association for Mental Health, the Alaska Psychological Association, and Alaska School Psychologists Association.

Objective 6: The board had recommended several changes in the licensing statutes during the past year, however, the division and the Governor would not introduce any new legislation for the board. Legislation was introduced in SB 823 to delete specialty licensing, to delete the psychotherapy labels, and to redefine approved program. The Governor vetoed this legislation.

Objective 7: Two examinations were completed during FY '82 with the use of the professional Examination Service and a State developed examination. Seven individuals passed the psychology aspect of this examination and two individuals passed the psychological associate aspect of this examination.

Objective 8: There were 14 psychologist applications reviewed during FY '82 and 4 psychological associate applications reviewed. There has been an increase in the number of applicants for the psychologist and the associate levels.

Objective 9: Because of budget restraints, the board was able to meet only three times during this last fiscal year; meetings were held in Sitka, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

Objective 10: The board has attempted to increase public related input in board activities by meeting across the State in diverse sites. Public input has been solicited through related activities described in Objective 5.

Objective 11: The board has experienced a decrease in investigatory activity as no investigator was present at board meetings until March of 1982. At that time, investigations for the past fiscal year were reviewed. Also at that time, the board passed a resolution requesting an investigator at every meeting in order to maintain a high degree of activity associated with enforcing the practice act.

FY '83 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals

It is the purpose of the board to ensure the public of quality, psychological care; to admit only qualified individuals in independent and associate psychological practice; to actively enforce a psychology practice act; to promote high standards of professional psychological practice; and to ensure the public of continuing competency of licensed psychologists and associates.

Objective 1. In order to ensure the continuing quality of psychological care to the public, it is in the public interest to support legislation to continue the board.

Objective 2. Complete public comment for the continuing competency regulations and to adopt continuing competency regulations by the end of FY '83.

Objective 3. To increase board knowledge of pertinent issues related to psychology licensing by (a) ensuring that all members receive the journal, Professional Practice of Psychology; (b) all members receive the AASBP Newsletter; and (c) send a representative to the national or regional AASBP meeting. A budget allocation of \$1,000 is required for this last objective (c).

Objective 4. To increase the public's awareness of board activities ensure the public's knowledge of the purpose of the board, and to educate the public regarding the practice of psychology. This objective will also include advertising in local and State media as well as having a public input period on each agenda.

Objective 5. Consideration of changes to be introduced to this Legislature including deletion of specialty, licensing deletion of the psychotherapy labels, and redefinition of an improved program.

Objective 6. Conduct two examinations during FY '83, with travel costs for the examination of \$300.00, per diem cost for examination of \$160.00 for a budget total of approximately \$920.00.

Objective 7. Review applications for licensure for psychology and psychological associate practice in an attempt to increase the number of practitioners at the psychologist and associate levels.

Objective 8. Meet four times during FY '82 throughout the State with the estimated travel cost per meeting of \$2,040.00 and the estimated per diem per meeting of \$960.00. This makes a total cost of \$12,000.00 during this next fiscal year for meetings.

Objective 9. Increase board activity in investigatory matters regarding the practice act of psychology.

STATE OF ALASKA
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FISCAL IMPACT

Bill No: House Bill No. 181 Date on Bill: 2/09/83
 Title: Continuing the existence of the Board of Psychologist and Psych Association Exam.
 Sponsor: _____
 Requestor: Commissioner's Office

1. Estimated fiscal impacts on:

a. Expenditures:

(Thousands of Dollars)

			FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86		
Capital			-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-		
Operating			-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-		
Total			-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-		

b. Revenues:

Revenue								
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2. Source of funds to offset fiscal impact of bill:

3. Assumptions:

No cost is foreseen to the Department of Health and Social Services as a result of this legislation.

4. Disclaimer:

This statement has not been reviewed by the OMB in the Office of the Governor. It not represent the policy of the Sheffield Administration or the final estimate of fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Thomas R. Branton, Deputy Director *TRB* Phone: 465-3370
 Division: Mental Health and DD Date: 2/17/83

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Department: _____

5. Distribution:

- Original to Legislative Finance
- Copy to OMB
- Copy to Sponsor
- Copy to Requestor

2/8/83

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 181

"An Act relating to regulation of the practice of psychology and continuing the existence of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners; and providing for an effective date."

Discussion:

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities supports the continuation of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners. We believe a board composed of licensed psychologists is important to insure that persons applying for licenses have the proper qualifications and experience necessary to provide a high quality of service. Also, the board plays an important role in developing standards of service for licensed psychologists and psychological associates.

The utilization of boards such as this is common practice in the area of licensing and overseeing service delivery, especially in the area of health care. For example, the nursing profession, medical doctors, and other fields of health providers have similar boards composed of their peers.

The continuation of this board will help to insure that Alaska's growing public and private mental health system will provide a high quality of service by competent and qualified mental health professionals. The development and enforcement of standards is considered extremely important in an area such as this and should continue in order to insure the safety of the consumers of mental health care.

Recommendation:

The Department of Health and Social Services supports the passage of this bill.

Recommended by: James S. Eranton for
V. R. Eranton
Deputy Director
Division of Mental
Health and Developmental
Disabilities

Date: 2/17/83

Approved by: Robert London Smith
Robert London Smith, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date: 2/22/83

COMMENTS ON THE NEED FOR PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE

I have prepared the following comments to accompany oral testimony to Committees of both the Alaska State House of Representatives and Senate, on the subject of the need for legislation continuing licensure of psychologists and psychological associates in Alaska. I have been in Alaska since 1964, except for time in the south 48 for graduate school. I have been a practicing psychologist in Alaska for the past nine years. Currently I am Chairman of the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners. I have been a member of the board for the past 18 months.

As a member of the licensing board I am very well acquainted with the fact that licensing must be justified in terms of providing protection to the service consuming public of Alaska. I believe you will agree the following points address that issue very directly.

1. Distinguishing a "Psychologist": A doctoral level psychologist is clearly distinguishable, though the field of counseling contains a wide variety of people offering services. This is true in terms of training, supervised practice, and experience. A licensed Psychologist will have had between four and seven years of postgraduate training, generally including a minimum of 3000 hours of supervised practice, in a training setting. Counselors trained even at the masters degree level generally average between one and two years of training and a few hundred hours of supervision in a training setting. This is major difference. Public protection demands that the distinction be recognized in a manner which will allow prospective clients to choose an adequately trained practitioner

2. Breadth of Training: Doctoral level psychologists have a very broad background of training enabling them to deal with a variety of client presented problems. Because of the years of training described above psychologists generally have time to be trained in many different therapeutic approaches, each of which enhances their ability to help people. Most practicing counselors have time only to learn one or two speciality areas, which they may do very well. The public needs to be able to identify practitioners with a broad training background.

As an example, the training of a doctoral level psychologist will often include supervised training in working with psychotic patients in mental hospitals, working in a mental health center, crisis intervention work, consultation with drug and alcohol treatment programs, schools, and other agencies. A doctoral level psychologist is a well trained generalist first, though s/he may choose to specialize later. This means s/he is equipped to handle almost anyone who may walk through the door, and to know enough to refer appropriately when necessary.

3. Training vs. Work Experience: The argument is sometimes heard that additional years of experience could qualify a less well trained person at the psychologist level. This is not so for several reasons. Training missed initially will never be made up by the addition of years of experience. Only more training is likely to make up for such a deficit, in which case the person will probably earn a doctorate.

There is also a distinct difference between supervised experience in the working world and that obtained in a training setting. Supervision in the working world is often in name only, or little more than that. It is sufficient to ensure that a person works safely. Caseload pressures often prevent sufficient face to face supervision. In addition the supervisors in the work setting may well not be trained supervisors. Supervised experience in a graduate school sponsored training program is geared to provide training rather than to producing work, and the supervisors are generally well trained and enjoy the training setting.

It is difficult to equate supervised experience in a training program vs. in a work setting. The training setting, however, is clearly worth much more.

4. Commonly accepted Definition: Licensure of psychologists at the doctoral level is appropriate because it corresponds most closely to the generally held popular view of what a psychologist is. Though there is some disagreement about the definition, people generally expect that if they go to a licensed psychologist they will find someone trained and experienced as described above. For the state to license people as psychologists at a lesser level would mislead the public. For the state not to license at all would allow proliferation of charlatans and inadequately trained people claiming the title of psychologists, an even more dangerous situation.

5. Non-Restrictive of Other Professionals: Licensing does not prevent unlicensed counselors and others from continuing to provide services to the public. It simply restricts the use of certain meaningful words, such as "psycho", "psychological counseling", "psychological testing", and others to those who can appropriately use them.

By this restriction the public is allowed to recognize those practitioners who meet a commonly accepted definition of what a psychologist is. They are then able to pick practitioners who will be minimally competent to handle a broad range of problems in a professional and safe manner.

Those who are members of a legitimate profession, or who choose to describe what they do in other terms, such as "counseling", will not be prevented from continuing by an appropriate licensing law.

6. Influx of the Poorly Qualified: Without a reasonable licensing law it seems likely that fewer rather than more competent psychologists would come to Alaska. There might well be an influx of marginally qualified people who cannot be licensed elsewhere, but this is hardly

advantageous to Alaskan consumers.

7. Loss of Third-Party-Payments: With no licensing, or meaningless low level licensing, insurance and other third party payments for psychological services would be much reduced in this state. Psychologists have fought hard for third party payments which enable consumers to afford psychotherapy services. Loss of this resource would hurt the consumer and the provider.

8. Other States: States which have sunsetted psychologist licensing have quickly reinstated it when faced with the facts described above.

9. In Support of Ethical Behavior: By generally confining licensure to a well trained and fairly easily defined group of providers there is one additional advantage to the state's consumers. A very important part of training of doctoral level psychologists involves the nature and importance of ethical behavior for the protection of the client. Not only do training programs teach ethics, they also screen for unethical behavior and support a set of standards which enforce ethical behavior. While licensing laws can further require ethical behavior it can only be advantageous to be licensing largely from a group already screened and trained to behave ethically in relation to their clients, peers and payors.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I would like to emphasize that I am available for further comment or conversation on this issue. I am in Juneau one day of every week, though I live in Sitka, and so would be able to discuss this matter in person, should you desire.

James W. Greenough, Ph.D.

Sectional Analysis of SB109/1B184

Sec 1. Provides for an extension of the Board of Psychologists & Associated Psychological Examiners for 4 years.

Sec 2. Clarifies the powers of the Board. Present statute is written in vague language. Board does not have powers equal with those of other health regulatory boards.

Proposed wording is taken from the Council on State Government's publication on occupational licensing / model practice act and is consistent with language adopted by the legislature for other licensing board under Title VIII.

Sec 3. Assures that a person seeking licensure by examination or by acceptance of credentials has graduated from an accredited school with a psychology program meeting the requirements set out by the American Psychology Association's Committee on Education & Credentialing.

The applicant would not be required to be a graduate of an APA approved & accredited program but rather simply be a graduate of one which is similar in content & quality to an approved program. This wording allows the Board to accept

as eligible for licensure many more candidates

Some other professional licensing statutes in Alaska do not allow such discretion but require that applicants be graduated from a school that is approved and accredited by that profession's national association's credentialing & education committee

The Board of Psychologist & Psychological Associate Examiners have chosen this wording because there are only approximately 10 APA approved & accredited programs in psychology in the country & accepting that requirement for eligibility for licensure would seriously restrict the numbers of applicants in Alaska where there is a proven need for qualified mental health practitioners both in rural & urban areas.

Please note: colleges & universities are accredited by the government but specific professional programs (ie. medicine, dentistry, etc) are accredited / approved by the profession's own education or credentialing committee in order that the minimum competence required to graduate is met or available to be learned by the students.

In this section the board is being allowed to measure programs against the national

association's standards for acceptance.

Sec. 4. Attempts to alleviate a conflict between professions who practice psychotherapy & to prevent ~~arrests~~ & prosecution of those in ^{those} their professions who would otherwise be accused of practicing psychology without a license, namely social workers.

Sec. 5. Exclusionary clause exempting members of other professions from the provisions of this Statute jurisdiction of this board provided that they do not appropriate the titles & practices restricted by Statute ~~to be the province of~~ to those who are psychologists or psychological assistants.

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12 AAC 60.090
12 AAC 60.950

PROPOSED REGULATIONS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
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12 AAC 60.090(a) and (b) are repealed.

12 AAC 60 is amended by adding a new article to read:

ARTICLE 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section
950. Definitions

12 AAC 60.950. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter and AS 08.86:

(1) "accreditation" means:

(A) an accredited school is one which is accredited by any regional accrediting agency recognized by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Offices.

(B) an accredited doctoral program is one which has been approved by the American Psychological Association or which is clearly equivalent to the standard used by the American Psychological Association. The burden of establishing equivalent standards rests with the applicant.

(2) "reasonable cause or excusable neglect" means:

(A) chronic illness;

(B) retirement;

(C) military service; and

(D) hardships as individually determined by the board.

(3) "technical meeting" means a professional meeting incorporating formal written or oral presentations of psychology related research, theory or applied topics.

(4) "appropriate supervision" as used in AS 08.86.180(b)(1) means supervision by a licensed psychologist consistent with accepted professional practices in psychology and with the supervising licensed being responsible for insuring the extent, kind, and quality of the psychological services performed are consistent with the training and experience of the supervised person.

(5) "professional incompetence" as used in AS 08.86.204(7)(A) means lacking sufficient knowledge,

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12 AAC 60.950

skills, or professional judgement in that field of practice in which the psychologist or psychological associate concerned engages, to a degree likely to endanger the mental health or well-being of his or her patients. (Eff. / / ,
Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.080

12 AAC 60 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 AAC 60.185. ETHICS AND STANDARDS. (a) The ethics to be adhered to by licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates shall be the "Ethical Principles of Psychologists," (1981 revision), of the American Psychological Association.

(b) The standards to be adhered to by licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates rendering psychological services in the state shall be the "Standards for Providers of Psychological Services," (January 1977 edition), of the American Psychological Association. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.080

12 AAC 60 is amended by adding a new article to read:

ARTICLE 6. CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section

- 250. Statement of purpose of continuing education
- 260. Hours of continuing education required
- 270. Computation of continuing education
- 280. Computation of academic continuing education hours
- 290. Accepted subjects
- 300. Approved nonacademic continuing education programs
- 310. Individual study
- 320. Instructor or discussion leader
- 330. Publications and presentations
- 340. Reinstatement
- 350. Report of continuing education

12 AAC 60.250. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. The purpose of continuing psychology education is to insure that the renewal of licenses is contingent upon proof of continued competency and assure the consumer of an optimum quality of psychological health care by requiring licensed psychologists and psychological associates to pursue education designed to enhance and advance their professional skills and knowledge. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.260. HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED. (a) An applicant for renewal of a license as a psychologist, or a psychological associate, originally issued before July 1, 1981, shall obtain 40 credit hours of documented continuing education before the June 30, 1985 application for renewal.

(b) Each psychologist or psychological associate seeking renewal of his or her license on or after July 1, 1985, must obtain an average of 20 credit hours per year of

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12 AAC 60.270
12 AAC 60.300

documented continuing education during the previous licensing period. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.270. COMPUTATION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. (a) For the purposes of 12 AAC 60.250--12 AAC 60.310, 50 minutes of instruction constitutes one hour.

(b) Credit is given only for full hours of instruction received and not for a fraction of an hour.

(c) Credit is given only for class attendance hours and not for hours devoted to class preparation. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.280. COMPUTATION OF ACADEMIC CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. (a) One quarter hour academic credit from a college or university constitutes 10 hours of continuing education.

(b) One semester hour academic credit from a college or university constitutes 15 hours of continuing education. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.290. ACCEPTED SUBJECTS. (a) In order to be accepted by the board, the subject of a continuing education program must contribute directly to the professional competency of a person licensed to practice as a psychologist or a psychological associate and be directly related to the concepts of psychological principles, ethics or practices as defined in AS 08.86.230(2). (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.300. ACCEPTED NONACADEMIC CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) The following programs are accepted by the board if they meet the requirements of 12 AAC 60.290:

(1) professional development programs of the American Psychological Association and its state societies including workshops, seminars, symposia, or a presentation of a technical paper;

(2) college or university short courses not carrying academic credit; and

(3) other professional continuing education programs if information is supplied to the board as follows:

(A) name and address of person or organization sponsoring the course;

(B) instructor's name;

(C) title of course; and

(D) the number of full fifty minute hours of actual instruction; and

(E) the location and dates the course was ~~be~~ conducted. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.310. INDIVIDUAL STUDY. (a) The number of hours of continuing education credit awarded for completion of a formal correspondence program, videotape program, audio-cassette program, or other individual study program which requires registration and provides evidence of satisfactory completion will be determined by the board on an individual basis.

(b) Continuing education credit awarded under this section may not exceed one half of the total continuing education hours required in any licensing renewal period. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.320. INSTRUCTOR OR DISCUSSION LEADER. (a) One hour of continuing education credit is awarded for each hour completed as an instructor or discussion leader of educational programs meeting the requirements of 12 AAC 60.250-.310. Credit is awarded only for the initial course of instruction of the subject matter unless there have been substantially new developments in the subject since the prior presentation.

(b) Credit awarded under (a) of this section may not exceed one-third of the hours in any licensing period. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.330. PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS. (a) Twenty (20) credit hours of continuing education will be awarded for each

(1) authorship of a publication in a professional psychology journal, providing the publication relates directly to the concepts of psychological principles, ethics or practices, and is published or accepted for publication during the four year reporting period immediately preceding the license renewal; and

(2) written or oral presentation at a meeting of the American Psychological Association, a technical meeting of a State psychology society, or meeting of a professional psychology-oriented organization, providing the presentation relates directly to the concepts of psychological principles, ethics or practices, and the presentation occurred during the four-year reporting period immediately preceding the license renewal; or

(3) authorship of a professional psychology book or monograph published or accepted for publication during the four year reporting period immediately preceding the license renewal. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.340. REINSTATEMENT. (a) The license of any licensee which is not renewed by reason of failure to comply with the continuing education requirements of 12 AAC 60.250-.380, will be reinstated or restored to full status by submission to the board of proof of the completion of all continuing education credit hours required.

(b) A licensee unable to obtain the required continuing education hours for renewal of his or her license, due to reasonable cause or excusable neglect, must request exemption status in writing to the board accompanied by a statement explaining reasonable cause or excusable neglect. The board will prescribe an alternative method of compliance to the continuing education requirements as deemed appropriate to the individual situation. (Eff. / / , Reg.)

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

12 AAC 60.350. REPORT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a) An applicant for renewal of a license to practice psychology shall submit, on a form provided by the department, a sworn statement of the continuing education in which he or she participated or pursued. The statement must indicate:

- (1) the sponsoring organization;
- (2) the location of the course or correspondent;
- (3) the title or description of course or both;
- (4) the principal instructor;
- (5) the dates of attendance or period of correspondence;
- (6) the titles, issues and dates of publications or presentations; and

(7) the number of continuing education hours claimed.

(b) Falsification of any written evidence submitted to the board pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be unprofessional conduct and constitute grounds for licensure reprimand, revocation or suspension. (Eff / / , Reg.).

Authority: AS 08.86.070(a)(6)

*Sec. 6. AS 08.86.230(12) is amended to read:

(12) "approved program" means a program which meets the requirements established by the American Psychological Association Education and Credentialing Committee in Psychology for an approved program [.] , or its equivalent as determined by the Board.

*Sec. 7. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).