

HB 163

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: April 26, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5/7/91

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 163

HOUSE BILL NO. 163

EXTEND BD OF PSYCHOLOGIST, ETC. EXAMINERS

"An Act extending the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CS HB 1103 (HES) the same title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: HES letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) DCED 4/26/91

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) DCED 4/26/91

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Yvonne Havane</i> NAVARRE	✓	<i>Bo A Sharp</i> Sharp		✓	
<i>Marvin Boyer</i> Boyer	X				
<i>Tony Brown</i> BROWN	✓				
<i>Thomas Koponen</i> KOPONEN	✓				
<i>Thomas Barnes</i> BARNES	✓				
<i>Robert Phillips</i> Phillips	✓				
<i>Larsen</i> Larsen	X				
<i>John Hume</i> Hume	X				
<i>Erin Maclean</i> Maclean	X				

Yvonne Havane *Erin Maclean*

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

NAI/vvp

MAI. Lean

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 163 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/5/91

Referred: Labor & Commerce, Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES/GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act extending the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners in the
 2 Department of Commerce and Economic Development; increasing the amount of graduate
 3 course work directly related to a specialized area of psychology necessary to qualify for
 4 examination as a psychological associate; and providing for an effective date."

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

6 * Section 1. AS 08.03.010(c)(10) is amended to read:

7 (10) Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners
 8 (AS 08.86.010) - June 30, 1995 [1991];

9 * Sec. 2. AS 08.86.162 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 08.86.162. ASSOCIATES: QUALIFICATION FOR EXAMINATION. A person
 11 is entitled to take a psychological associate examination if the board finds that the person:

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

14 (2) holds a master's degree with primary emphasis on psychology from an

1 academic institution whose program of graduate study for a master's degree in psychology meets
2 the criteria established by the board by regulation, with the equivalent of at least 48 [24] semester
3 credit hours of graduate course work directly related to a specialized area of psychology in which
4 licensure is requested, including a practicum;

5 (3) has at least three years' supervised experience after obtaining a master's
6 degree; in this paragraph, "supervised experience" means the equivalent of at least one hour a
7 week of personal interview with a supervisor whose educational qualifications are consistent with
8 the level of activity being supervised;

9 (4) has the recommendation of an immediate supervisor if a licensed psychologist,
10 or two licensed psychologists who hold doctoral degrees; and

11 (5) has not within the preceding six months failed an examination given by the
12 board.

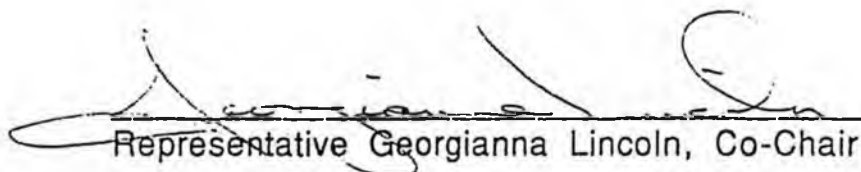
13 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

March 27, 1991


by the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

Letter of Intent
for
HB 163

It is the intent of the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee that occupational licensing fees established pursuant to AS 08.01.065 shall reflect the actual costs to the department for which the fee is charged, except when to do so would create an unreasonable burden upon licensees. The committee requests the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners to work with the department in re-evaluating its current licensing fee schedule. The committee further requests the department to issue a report on fee schedules, with notation as to those fees which have been changed, to the legislature by the first day of the second session of the Seventeenth Legislature.



Representative Georgianna Lincoln, Co-Chair



Representative Pat Carney, Co-Chair

FISCAL NOTE

No. 3

Bill Version: CSHB 163 (HES)

(H) Publish Date: 4/25/91

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Commerce & Economic Dev.

Title: Extending the Board of Psych. and Psychological Associate Examiners... BRU: Occupational Licensing

Component: Administration

Sponsor: Rules Committee/Governor

Requestor: House HESS

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

0	3	5	5
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Funding for the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners is included in the department's FY 92 operating budget request; therefore, new funds are not required to extend the board or implement the amendment in Sec. 2 of the bill.

Prepared By: Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Officer Phone: 465-2144

Division: Occupational Licensing Date: 4/11/91

Approved by Commissioner: Glenn A. Olds

Agency: Commerce and Economic Development Date: _____

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

CONTINUATION OF FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

The Division of Occupational Licensing, Department of Commerce & Economic Development, is funded primarily by program receipts generated from licensing fees. All licensing programs share in the responsibility of covering a percentage of the administrative costs based on the number of current licensees (156 psychologists and psychological associate licensees) divided by the total number of current division licensees (29,108). In FY 92, costs for the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners are projected as follows:

Personal Services:			
-	Administrative costs	5.7	
-	25% Licensing Examiner	10.6	
-	10% Investigative	<u>5.0</u>	
	Sub-Total:		\$21.3
Travel:			
-	Administrative	.3	
-	Board Travel	<u>5.0</u>	
	Sub-Total:		\$ 5.3
Contractual:			\$ 2.9
Supplies:			\$.3
Equipment:			\$ <u>.0</u>
	TOTAL: FY 92 Costs		\$ 29.8
	<u>Average Annual Revenue:</u>		\$ 11.9

FY 92

Printed 01/30/91
Time 05:59 PM

CATEGORY	TOTAL	PSYCH
NUMBER OF LICENSEES	29,158	156
PERCENT OF LICENSEES	100%	0.54%
PERSONAL SERVICES		
Administrative	592,185	5,244
Direct Support	256,763	
# of Licensing Examiners	12.5	25%
Examiner Pay/Benefits	520,072	10,601
# of Investigator	7.5	10%
Investigator Pay/Benefits	117,633	4,974
# of Hearing Examiner	100%	1,59%
Hearing Examiners w/o RE	25,173	305
Real Estate Hearing Examiner	12,435	
SUB TOTAL	2,312,773	21,344
TRAVEL/PER DIEM		
Administrative	60,400	724
Board Meetings	227,184	5,000
SUB TOTAL	287,584	5,724
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - ADMINISTRATIVE		
Professional Services	126,158	720
Communications	155,520	334
Transportation	10,000	54
Advertising/Printing	129,300	688
Repairs/Maintenance	20,700	165
Rental	46,900	251
Other (Memberships)	37,700	202
SUB TOTAL	515,298	2,722
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - DESIGNATED		
Professional Services	0	
Communications	0	
Transportation	0	
Advertising/Printing	0	
Repairs/Maintenance	0	
Rental	0	
Other (Memberships)	0	
SUB TOTAL	15,402	0
CONTRACTUAL TOTAL	530,700	2,722
SUPPLIES		
Administrative	45,747	245
Designated	4,753	
SUB TOTAL	50,500	245
EQUIPMENT		
Administrative	3,250	24
Designated	2,347	
SUB TOTAL	5,597	24
TOTAL BUDGET - COLUMNS	3,220,662	27,869

HB 163

February 26, 1991

Representative Georgianna Lincoln
Chair of the House Health, Education
and Social Services Committee
PO BOX V STATE HOUSE
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Lincoln:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Alaska Psychological Association with regard to the Alaska statutes as they relate to the Psychological Associate license. Specifically, I am requesting that the educational requirement for the Psychological Associate be increased from a minimum of a Masters Degree consisting of twenty four semester hours to a minimum of a Masters Degree consisting of forty eight hours.

As you may know, the Psychological Associate license allows those holding a Masters Degree in psychology to practice psychology in Alaska. Alaska is one of approximately five states in the country that allow those holding the Masters Degree in psychology to be licensed, thus providing quality control with regard to whom may practice.

In order to be licensed, Psychological Associates must first practice under the supervision of a Psychologist (someone who holds a Doctorate Degree and is licensed by the the state) for a period of three years. After successfully completing the supervision requirement they are then eligible to sit for the written examination. This examination consists of two parts, an objective portion that is used throughout the country, and an essay portion which covers ethics and legal issues specific to the practice of psychology in Alaska. The test is the same as that taken to be licensed as a Psychologist, but the passing score is substantially lower. After being licensed, Psychological Associates must remain under the supervision of a Psychologist for five years after which they may apply to practice independently.

The difference between Psychologists and Psychological Associates is that Psychologists have two to three more years

1 of 3

Misc. Correspondence

of formal training at the graduate level, and have a far broader base of education and thus typically perform a wider variety of services. These include evaluations based upon information derived from psychological testing, and therapy to individuals, groups and families. In addition many Psychologists serve as expert witnesses in court, and do evaluations in the correctional system. Some Psychologists specialize in rehabilitation of those with brain injuries or disease and evaluate neurological capabilities. Psychologists provide services in hospitals, as well as out patient settings.

Psychological Associates may do any of these activities provided they have the necessary training. As a general rule however, most Psychological Associates limit their practice to psychotherapy, and generally restrict their practice to outpatient work.

The Alaska Psychological Association is recommending that the educational requirement for Psychological Associates be increased for two reasons. The first is that when first written, the statute required that Psychological Associates remain under the supervision of a psychologist in order to practice. With the higher level of responsibility that comes with completely independent practice that the law now allows, should come a higher level of training.

The second reason for the requested change is that since the law was written, the amount of knowledge has expanded sufficiently to warrant an increased educational requirement. There continues to be a wide disparity between the requirements for earning a masters degree. While some schools require as many as ninety semester hours of credit, others require less than the twenty four specified for licensure. Twenty four hours of credit is the equivalent of only eight classes, seven classes if credit is given for writing the masters thesis. When viewed in that respect it is apparent that one can just begin to scratch the surface of the current body of knowledge with only twenty four hours of credit. It is clearly not enough to practice independently.

The University of Alaska has increased its requirements for the masters degree to forty eight hours. Those trained in that program will be able to meet this requirement. Those pursuing licensure without the required course work can enroll in graduate courses offered at The University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University. For those living in rural areas, there are several extended degree programs that a number of Alaskans are enrolled in which allow their

students to do much of the required work independently and attend short intensive seminars Outside on a regular basis. While these programs require a high degree of commitment and time, that is the price that anyone holding an advanced degree has been required to pay.

The Board of Psychologists and Psychological Associates is in support of this change, and has in fact been working toward it for some time now. They have advised me that they have experienced problems doing so due to time constraints and difficulty arranging the necessary hearings to make the change administratively. Because this is a year that the Psychology License is being reviewed for continuation by the legislature, it is a good time to consider this change legislatively. The bill for continuation is HB 163 to extend the Psychology License for another four years. Please consider amending to bill to include an increase in the educational requirement for Psychological Associates to forty eight semester hours as I have discussed above.

I hope that this letter has clarified the position the Alaska Psychological Association is taking with regard to this issue. Please feel free to contact me or our lobbyist, Sharon Macklin, if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Joel B. Wieman Ph.D
Legislative Coordinator
Alaska Psychological Association

PLEASE MICROFILM TOP PAGE ONLY

DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN
FILMED BUT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
ORIGINAL FILE INCLUDE:

→ Audit Report - Div. of Legislative Audit
Oct. 11, 1990 Board of Psychologist and
Psychological Associate Examiners

