

STATE OF NEW YORK

1262

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. McDONALD, STECK, MORINELLO, LUPARDO, FAHY, SANTA-BARBARA, SEAWRIGHT -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BLANKENBUSH, BRABENEC, HYNDMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to granting licensed psychologists prescriptive authority

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 7601-a of the education law, as added by chapter 676 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

§ 7601-a. Definition of the practice of psychology. 1. The practice of psychology is the observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, and modification of behavior for the purpose of preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive or undesired behavior; enhancing interpersonal relationships, personal, group or organizational effectiveness and work and/or life adjustment; and improving behavioral health and/or mental health. The practice includes, but is not limited to psychological (including neuropsychological) testing and counseling; psychoanalysis; psychotherapy; the diagnosis and treatment of mental, nervous, emotional, cognitive or behavioral disorders, disabilities, ailments or illnesses, alcoholism, substance abuse, disorders of habit or conduct, the psychological aspects of physical illness, accident, injury or disability, psychological aspects of learning (including learning disorders); [and] the use of accepted classification systems; and the prescription of appropriate drugs in accordance with section seventy-six hundred one-b of this article. The prescription of drugs by a psychologist is authorized only in accordance with the provisions of section seventy-six hundred one-b of this article and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

2. The term "diagnosis and treatment" means the appropriate psychological diagnosis and the ordering or providing of treatment according to

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 need. Treatment includes, but is not limited to counseling, psychothera-
2 py, marital or family therapy, psychoanalysis, and other psychological
3 interventions, including verbal, behavioral, or other appropriate means
4 as defined in regulations promulgated by the commissioner; and for
5 psychologists certified pursuant to section seventy-six hundred one-b of
6 this article, the prescription of drugs.

7 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 7601-b to
8 read as follows:

9 § 7601-b. Certification to use therapeutic drugs. 1. Definitions. As
10 used in this section, the following terms shall have the following mean-
11 ings:

12 a. "Board" means the state board for psychology.

13 b. "Controlled substance" means any drug substance or immediate
14 precursor enumerated in schedules 1-5 of the U.S. Drug Enforcement
15 Administration Controlled Substance Act and as provided for in article
16 thirty-three of the public health law.

17 c. "Psychologists authorized to prescribe" means any psychologist
18 licensed pursuant to this article who has undergone specialized educa-
19 tion and training in preparation for prescriptive practice and who has
20 passed an examination accepted by the board relevant to establishing
21 competence for prescribing, and who has received from the board a
22 certificate granting prescriptive authority, which has not been revoked
23 or suspended.

24 d. "Clinical experience" means a period of supervised clinical train-
25 ing and practice in which clinical diagnoses and interventions are
26 learned and which are conducted and supervised as part of the training
27 program.

28 e. "Prescription" is an order for a drug, laboratory test, or any
29 medicine, device or treatment, including controlled substances, such
30 terms as defined in article one hundred thirty-seven of this title.

31 f. "Prescriptive authority" means the authority to prescribe, adminis-
32 ter, discontinue and/or distribute without charge, drugs or controlled
33 substances recognized in or customarily used in the diagnosis, treatment
34 and management of individuals with psychiatric, mental, cognitive, nerv-
35 ous, emotional or behavioral disorders, or other procedures directly
36 related thereto within the scope of practice of psychology in accordance
37 with rules and regulations adopted by the board.

38 2. Certification. a. The board shall certify licensed psychologists to
39 exercise prescriptive authority in accordance with the applicable feder-
40 al laws, and the provisions of article one hundred thirty-seven of this
41 title and article thirty-three of the public health law.

42 b. The board shall develop and implement procedures for reviewing the
43 education and training credentials for such certification process, in
44 accordance with the standards of professional practice.

45 3. Initial application requirements for prescriptive authority. A
46 psychologist licensed pursuant to this article who applies for prescrip-
47 tive authority shall demonstrate all of the following by official tran-
48 script or other official evidence satisfactory to the board:

49 a. The psychologist must hold a current license issued pursuant to
50 this article to provide health care services as a psychologist in the
51 state;

52 b. As defined by the board, and consistent with the established poli-
53 cies of the American Psychological Association for educating and train-
54 ing psychologists in preparation for prescriptive authority:

55 (i) The psychologist must have completed an organized sequence of
56 study in an organized program offering intensive didactic education, and

1 including the following core areas of instruction: basic life sciences,
2 neurosciences, clinical and research pharmacology and psychopharmacolo-
3 gy, clinical medicine and pathophysiology, physical assessment and labo-
4 ratory exams, clinical pharmacotherapeutics, research, professional,
5 ethical and legal issues. The didactic portion of the education shall
6 consist of an appropriate number of didactic hours to ensure acquisition
7 of the necessary knowledge and skills to prescribe in a safe and effec-
8 tive manner; and

9 (ii) The psychologist must have obtained relevant clinical experience
10 sufficient to attain competency in the psychopharmacological treatment
11 of a diverse patient population under the direction of qualified practi-
12 tioners as determined by the board;

13 c. The psychologist must pass an examination developed by a nationally
14 recognized body (e.g., the American Psychological Association's Practice
15 Organization's College of Professional Psychology) and approved by the
16 board.

17 4. Renewal of prescriptive authority. a. The board shall prescribe by
18 rule a method for the renewal of prescriptive authority at the time of
19 or in conjunction with the renewal of licenses issued pursuant to this
20 article.

21 b. Each applicant for renewal of prescriptive authority shall present
22 satisfactory evidence to the board demonstrating the completion of twen-
23 ty-five contact hours of continuing education instruction relevant to
24 prescriptive authority during the previous licensure renewal period.

25 5. Prescribing practices. a. Psychologists authorized to prescribe
26 shall be authorized to prescribe, administer, discontinue and/or
27 distribute without charge, drugs or controlled substances recognized in
28 or customarily used in the diagnosis, treatment and management of indi-
29 viduals with psychiatric, mental, cognitive, nervous, emotional or
30 behavioral disorders and relevant to the practice of psychology, or
31 other procedures directly related thereto within the scope of practice
32 of psychology in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the
33 board.

34 b. No psychologist shall issue a prescription unless the psychologist
35 holds a valid certificate of prescriptive authority.

36 c. Each prescription issued by a prescribing psychologist shall:

37 (i) Comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations
38 relating to such prescription; and

39 (ii) Be identified as written by the prescribing psychologist in such
40 manner as determined by the board in accordance with title four of arti-
41 cle thirty-three of the public health law.

42 d. A record of all prescriptions shall be maintained in the patient's
43 record.

44 e. A psychologist shall not delegate the authority to prescribe drugs
45 to any other person.

46 6. Controlled substance prescriptive authority. a. When authorized to
47 prescribe controlled substances, psychologists authorized to prescribe
48 shall file in a timely manner their Drug Enforcement Agency registration
49 and number with the board.

50 b. The board shall maintain current records of every psychologist
51 authorized to prescribe, including his or her Drug Enforcement Agency
52 registration and number.

53 7. Interaction with the state board of pharmacy. a. The board shall
54 transmit to the state board of pharmacy an initial list of psychologists
55 authorized to prescribe containing the following information:

56 (i) the name of the psychologist;

1 (ii) the psychologist's identification number assigned by the board;
2 and
3 (iii) the effective date of prescriptive authority.

4 b. The board shall promptly forward to the state board of pharmacy any
5 additions to the initial list as new certificates are issued.

6 c. The board shall notify the state board of pharmacy in a timely
7 manner upon termination, suspension or reinstatement of a psychologist's
8 prescriptive authority.

9 8. Powers and duties of the board. The board shall promulgate rules
10 and regulations for denying, modifying, suspending or revoking the pres-
11 criptive authority or license of a psychologist authorized to prescribe.
12 The board shall also have the power to require remediation of any defi-
13 ciencies in the training or practice pattern of the medical psychologist
14 or prescribing psychologist when, in the judgment of the board, such
15 deficiencies could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the health,
16 safety or welfare of the public.

17 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
18 ing the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediate-
19 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
20 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
21 authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such
22 effective date.