S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6358--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

December 23, 2009

Introduced by Sen. FOLEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law and the social services law, in relation to the practice of school psychology

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 167 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 167
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION 8720. INTRODUCTION.
8721. PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AND USE OF THE TITLE "SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST".
8722. DEFINITION OF THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY.
8723. REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE.
8724. BOUNDARIES OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY.
8725. LIMITED PERMITS.
8726. EXEMPTIONS.
8727. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

S 8720. INTRODUCTION. THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO THE PROFESSION AND PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AND TO THE USE OF THE TITLE "LICENSED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST". THE GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ALL PROFESSIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS TITLE APPLY TO THIS ARTICLE.

S 8721. PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AND USE OF THE TITLE "SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST". ONLY A PERSON LICENSED OR EXEMPT UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL PRACTICE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY OR USE THE TITLE "LICENSED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST".

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

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S 8722. DEFINITION OF THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY. THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY IS:

1. THE ASSESSMENT, INCLUDING PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION OF INTELLIGENCE, COGNITIVE PROCESSES, APTITUDES, INTERESTS, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, ADJUSTMENT, PERSONALITY FACTORS AND MOTIVATIONS, OR ANY OTHER ATTRIBUTES, IN INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, THAT RELATE TO LEARNING, EDUCATION OR ADJUSTMENT NEEDS;

2. THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONALLY-RELATED PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC AND BEHAVIORAL APPROACHES TO INCREASE SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS, COUNSELING AND INTERPRETIVE SERVICES TO REDUCE EDUCATION-RELATED PROBLEMS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, VERBAL INTERACTION, INTERVIEWING, BEHAVIOR TECHNIQUES, DEVELOPMENTAL AND VOCATIONAL INTERVENTION, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND GROUP PROCESSES;

3. CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOLS, AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND VOCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OR DIRECT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, RELATED TO LEARNING PROBLEMS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THOSE PROBLEMS; AND

4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING OR EVALUATING EDUCATIONALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY SOUND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND THE FACILITATION OF PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES OR GROUPS.

S 8723. REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE. TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENSE AS A LICENSED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, AN APPLICANT SHALL FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. APPLICATION: FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT;

2. EDUCATION: COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF SIXTY GRADUATE CREDITS AND FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF A MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL DEGREE IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY FROM A PROGRAM REGISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS. THE GRADUATE COURSEWORK SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

(I) BIOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BASES OF DEVELOPMENT;

(II) PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND EXCEPTIONALITY IN LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR;

(III) ASSESSMENT AND APPRAISAL OF LEARNERS IN HOME AND SCHOOL CONTEXTS;

(IV) CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION IN FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SYSTEMS;

(V) EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COGNITIVE AND ACADEMIC SKILLS;

(VI) PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL DISORDERS AND DEFICITS;

(VII) SCHOOL ORGANIZATION, CURRICULUM, POLICY AND LAW;

(VIII) RESEARCH AND PROGRAM EVALUATION;

(IX) PROFESSION AND ETHICAL PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN SCHOOLS; AND

(X) COMPLETION OF A TWELVE HUNDRED HOUR SUPERVISED INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, WITH NO LESS THAN SIX HUNDRED HOURS COMPLETED WITHIN A SCHOOL SETTING.

3. EXPERIENCE: COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED HOURS OF POST-MASTER'S SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS, SUCH SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE WHICH MAY INCLUDE ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED HOURS COMPLETED AS PART OF A PROGRAM IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY;

4. EXAMINATION: PASS AN EXAMINATION SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS;

5. AGE: BE AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE;

6. CHARACTER: BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

7. FEES: PAY A FEE OF TWO HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ADMISSION TO A DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED EXAMINATION AND FOR AN INITIAL LICENSE; A FEE OF EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR EACH REEXAMINATION; A FEE OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR AN INITIAL LICENSE FOR PERSONS NOT REQUIRING ADMISSION TO A DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED EXAMINATION AND A FEE OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS FOR EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD.

S 8724. BOUNDARIES OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY. 1. IT SHALL BE DEEMED PRACTICING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF HIS OR HER PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE FOR A PERSON LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, IN THE CASE OF TREATMENT OF ANY SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS, TO PROVIDE ANY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR SUCH ILLNESS ON A CONTINUOUS AND SUSTAINED BASIS WITHOUT A MEDICAL EVALUATION OF THE ILLNESS BY, AND CONSULTATION WITH, A PHYSICIAN REGARDING SUCH ILLNESS. SUCH MEDICAL EVALUATION AND CONSULTATION SHALL BE TO DETERMINE AND ADVISE WHETHER ANY MEDICAL CARE IS INDICATED FOR SUCH ILLNESS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS" MEANS SCHIZOPHRENIA, SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDER, BIPOLAR DISORDER, MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER, PANIC DISORDER AND OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT, LIMIT OR IMPAIR CONSULTATION WITH ANY OTHER HEALTH OR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. NOTHING HEREIN CONTAINED SHALL LIMIT, MODIFY, RESTRICT OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THE DEFINITION OF THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AS PROVIDED IN SECTION EIGHTY-SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO OF THIS ARTICLE.

2. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHOSE LICENSE OR AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE DERIVES FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE PROHIBITED FROM:

(A) PRESCRIBING OR ADMINISTERING DRUGS AS DEFINED IN THIS CHAPTER AS A TREATMENT, THERAPY, OR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN THE PRACTICE OF HIS OR HER PROFESSION; OR

(B) USING INVASIVE PROCEDURES AS A TREATMENT, THERAPY, OR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN THE PRACTICE OF HIS OR HER PROFESSION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, "INVASIVE PROCEDURE" MEANS ANY PROCEDURE IN WHICH HUMAN TISSUE IS CUT, ALTERED, OR OTHERWISE INFILTRATED BY MECHANICAL OR OTHER MEANS. INVASIVE PROCEDURE INCLUDES SURGERY, LASERS, IONIZING RADIATION, THERAPEUTIC ULTRASOUND, OR ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY.

3. NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE DEEMED TO AUTHORIZE, GRANT OR EXTEND HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES TO INDIVIDUALS LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

S 8725. LIMITED PERMITS. 1. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE A LIMITED PERMIT TO AN APPLICANT WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREFOR.

2. LIMITED PERMITS SHALL BE FOR ONE YEAR AND BE RENEWED, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT, FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

3. THE FEE FOR EACH LIMITED PERMIT AND FOR EACH RENEWAL SHALL BE SEVENTY DOLLARS.

S 8726. EXEMPTIONS. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO:

1. APPLY TO THE PRACTICE, CONDUCT, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES OR USE OF ANY TITLE BY ANY PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE WITHIN THE STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF THIS TITLE OR BY ANY PERSON REGISTERED TO PERFORM SERVICES AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WITHIN THE STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE-B OF THIS TITLE OR BY ANY PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY WITHIN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE OF THIS TITLE OR BY ANY PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER WITHIN THIS STATE

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR OF THIS TITLE, OR BY ANY PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE NURSING AS A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE WITHIN THIS STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS TITLE, OR BY ANY PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY, OR PSYCHOANALYSIS WITHIN THE STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE OF THIS TITLE; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO PHYSICIAN, PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT, REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE, PSYCHOLOGIST, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR, LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, LICENSED CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIST OR LICENSED PSYCHOANALYST MAY USE THE TITLE UNLESS LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE;

2. PROHIBIT OR LIMIT ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CREDENTIALED UNDER ANY LAW, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS, RAPE CRISIS COUNSELORS, CERTIFIED ALCOHOLISM COUNSELORS AND CERTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS FROM PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE ESTABLISHED AUTHORITIES;

3. PROHIBIT OR LIMIT THE PRACTICE OF A PROFESSION LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE BY A STUDENT, INTERN OR RESIDENT IN, AND AS A PART OF, A SUPERVISED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN AN INSTITUTION APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

4. PROHIBIT OR LIMIT THE PROVISION OF PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICES BY ANY MEMBER OF THE CLERGY OR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONER, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF HIS OR HER MINISTERIAL CHARGE OR OBLIGATION;

5. PROHIBIT OR LIMIT INDIVIDUALS, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES, FROM PROVIDING INSTRUCTION, ADVICE, SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT, OR INFORMATION TO INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND RELATIONAL GROUPS; OR

6. PROHIBIT OR LIMIT AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST FROM PERFORMING WORK CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX OF THIS TITLE.

S 8727. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. 1. ANY NONEXEMPT PERSON PRACTICING THE PROFESSION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SHALL APPLY FOR A LICENSE OF SUCH PROFESSION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

(A) IF SUCH PERSON DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THIS ARTICLE, SUCH PERSON MAY MEET ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE THE SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENT OF SUCH CRITERIA.

(B) IF SUCH PERSON MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THIS ARTICLE, EXCEPT FOR EXAMINATION, AND HAS BEEN CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED BY A NATIONAL CERTIFYING OR REGISTERING BODY HAVING CERTIFICATION OR REGISTRATION STANDARDS ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSIONER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL LICENSE WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION EIGHTY-SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, AND FOR A PERIOD OF TIME NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE LICENSED AS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST PROVIDED SUCH PERSON HAS EITHER:

(A) MET THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AS DEFINED IN SECTION EIGHTY-SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE AND PERFORMED THE DUTIES OF A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST FOR TWO OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE; OR

(B) PERFORMED THE DUTIES OF A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE.

3. ANY PERSON LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE MAY USE ACCEPTED CLASSIFICATIONS OF SIGNS, SYMPTOMS, DYSFUNCTIONS AND DISORDERS, AS APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IN THE PRACTICE OF SUCH LICENSED PROFESSION.

S 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 6507 of the education law, as amended by chapter 356 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

a. Establish standards for preprofessional and professional education, experience and licensing examinations as required to implement the article for each profession. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall establish standards requiring that all persons applying, on or after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one, initially, or for the renewal of, a license, registration or limited permit to be a physician, chiropractor, dentist, registered nurse, podiatrist, optometrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, LICENSED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, licensed master social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed creative arts therapist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, licensed psychoanalyst, or dental hygienist shall, in addition to all the other licensure, certification or permit requirements, have completed two hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. The coursework or training shall be obtained from an institution or provider which has been approved by the department to provide such coursework or training. The coursework or training shall include information regarding the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment and the statutory reporting requirements set out in sections four hundred thirteen through four hundred twenty of the social services law, including but not limited to, when and how a report must be made, what other actions the reporter is mandated or authorized to take, the legal protections afforded reporters, and the consequences for failing to report. Such coursework or training may also include information regarding the physical and behavioral indicators of the abuse of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and voluntary reporting of abused or neglected adults to the office of mental retardation and developmental disabilities or the local adult protective services unit. Each applicant shall provide the department with documentation showing that he or she has completed the required training. The department shall provide an exemption from the child abuse and maltreatment training requirements to any applicant who requests such an exemption and who shows, to the department's satisfaction, that there would be no need because of the nature of his or her practice for him or her to complete such training;

S 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 413 of the social services law, as separately amended by chapters 323 and 366 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The following persons and officials are required to report or cause a report to be made in accordance with this title when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child, or when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or maltreated child where the parent, guardian, custodian or other person legally responsible for such child comes before them in their professional or official capacity and states from personal knowledge facts, conditions or circumstances which, if correct, would render the child an abused or maltreated child: any physician; registered physician assistant; surgeon; medical examiner; coroner; dentist; dental hygienist; osteopath; optometrist; chiropractor; podiatrist; resident; intern; psychologist; SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST; registered nurse; social worker; emergency medical technician; licensed creative arts therapist; licensed marriage and family therapist; licensed mental health counselor;

licensed psychoanalyst; hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons; a Christian Science practitioner; school official, which includes but is not limited to school teacher, school guidance counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, school administrator or other school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate; social services worker; day care center worker; school-age child care worker; provider of family or group family day care; employee or volunteer in a residential care facility defined in subdivision four of section four hundred twelve-a of this title or any other child care or foster care worker; mental health professional; substance abuse counselor; alcoholism counselor; all persons credentialed by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services; peace officer; police officer; district attorney or assistant district attorney; investigator employed in the office of a district attorney; or other law enforcement official.

S 4. Section 7602 of the education law, as added by chapter 987 of the laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

S 7602. State board for psychology. A state board for psychology shall be appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the commissioner for the purpose of assisting the board of regents and the department on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct in accordance with section sixty-five hundred eight of this title. The board shall be composed of not less than eleven [psychologists licensed in this state] MEMBERS, A NUMBER OF WHOM SHALL BE LICENSED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS SUFFICIENT TO ASSURE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN BOARD ACTIVITIES. An executive secretary to the board shall be appointed by the board of regents upon the recommendation of the commissioner and shall be a psychologist, licensed in this state.

S 5. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

S 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2011; provided that the department of education is authorized to promulgate any and all rules and regulations and take any other measure necessary to implement this act on or before its effective date, including, but not limited to, the appointment of the state board for psychology, the acceptance and processing of applications for licensure and the issuance of licenses; provided further that the provisions of article 167 of the education law, as added by section one of this act, requiring a license or limited permit to practice under such article shall not be enforced until January 1, 2012.