



**Am. H.B. 503**  
127th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

**Reps. Peterson and Letson, Evans, Bacon, Boyd, Yuko, Stebelton, R. Hagan, B. Williams, Beatty, Raussen, Huffman, Fende, Mecklenborg, Heard, Celeste, Brown, Strahorn, J. Otterman, Budish, Combs, DeBose, DeGeeter, Domenick, Dyer, Foley, Gerberry, Harwood, Heydinger, Hughes, Luckie, Mallory, Oelslager, Patton, Schneider, D. Stewart, White, Yates**

**Sens. D. Miller, Fedor, Morano, Sawyer, Turner**

**Effective date: \***

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**ACT SUMMARY**

- Changes the education requirements for admission to the psychologist licensure examination, but excepts from the new requirements applicants who enroll not later than 60 days after the act's effective date in programs that meet existing requirements.
- Removes the requirement that the State Board of Psychology maintain a record of each degree program it recognizes as acceptable for fulfilling the educational requirements, but requires the Board to adopt rules for determining whether a degree is equivalent to a degree from an institution in the United States.
- Replaces the requirement that at least one of the two years of supervised professional experience needed for admission to the psychologist licensure examination be completed on a postdoctoral basis with a requirement that at least a year be a predoctoral internship and applies this requirement to licensed clinical psychologists in the laws governing hospitalization of mentally ill persons.

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\* The Legislative Service Commission had not received formal notification of the effective date at the time this analysis was prepared. Additionally, the analysis may not reflect action taken by the Governor.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Admission to psychologist licensure examination

(R.C. 4732.10)

Under prior law, to be admitted to the examination for a psychologist license, an applicant had to meet a number of requirements, including the following:

(1) Have received from an accredited or recognized educational institution an earned doctoral degree in psychology, school psychology, or a doctoral degree deemed equivalent by the State Board of Psychology.

(2) Have had at least two years of supervised professional experience in psychological work of a type satisfactory to the Psychology Board, at least one year of which was postdoctoral.

### New requirements

The act modifies the degree requirement by specifying the acceptable education or practical experience. An applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- Have received an earned doctoral degree from an institution accredited or recognized by a national or regional accrediting agency and a program accredited by one of the following: the American Psychological Association (Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation), the Accreditation Office of the Canadian Psychological Association, a program listed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards/National Register Designation Committee, or the National Association of School Psychologists;
- Have received a degree from an academic institution outside of the United States or Canada determined under rules adopted by the Psychology Board to be equivalent to a doctoral degree in psychology from a program described above;
- Held a psychologist license, certificate, or registration required for practice in another jurisdiction of the United States or Canada for a minimum of ten years and meet educational, experience, and professional requirements established by rule of the Psychology Board.

The act permits an applicant who, up to 60 days after the act's effective date, is enrolled in a program that meets the educational requirements of prior law to qualify under prior requirements rather than the new ones. The applicant must, however, earn a doctoral degree in psychology or school psychology, or a doctoral degree deemed equivalent by the Psychology Board no later than eight years after the act's effective date. The act thereby grandfathers applicants who are in or about to start degree programs when the act takes effect.

The act also removes a requirement that the Psychology Board maintain a record of each specific degree program that it recognized as acceptable for fulfilling the educational requirements. The act requires instead that the Board adopt rules for determining whether a degree is equivalent to a degree in psychology from an institution in the United States.

The act modifies the requirement for supervised experience by requiring that at least one year of the minimum two years of supervised professional experience be a predoctoral internship rather than postdoctoral.

**"Licensed clinical psychologist" in mental health law**

(R.C. 5122.01)

For purposes of continuing laws governing the hospitalization of mentally ill individuals and the Ohio Department of Mental Health, "licensed clinical psychologist" is defined as a person who holds a current valid psychologist license and meets certain requirements. One requirement of prior law was that the psychologist have a minimum of two years' supervised, full-time professional experience, at least one year of which was postdoctoral, in clinical psychological work diagnosing and treating problems of mental illness or mental retardation. As with requirements for admission to the psychologist examination, the act changes the requirement that one year of the supervised experience be postdoctoral to a requirement that at least one year be a predoctoral internship.

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-11-08
Reported, H. Health	05-08-08
Passed House (95-0)	05-29-08
Reported, S. Health, Human Services & Aging	12-11-08
Passed Senate (32-0)	12-17-08

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