Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127 th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
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BILL:	**Am. H.B. 503**	DATE:	**December 17, 2008**
STATUS:	**As Enacted – Effective April 7, 2009**	SPONSOR:	**Reps. Peterson and Letson**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — No local cost**

CONTENTS: **Amends the experience and training requirements for an applicant to take the psychologist license examination**

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the State Board of Psychology to adopt rules for determining whether a degree from another country is equivalent to a degree from an institution in the United States. Promulgating rules will be accomplished within the Board's existing budget.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Requirements for admission to psychologist licensure examination

The bill modifies the education and experience requirements for admission to the psychologist licensure examination by specifying the acceptable education or practical experience primarily as it applies to experience outside the United States or Canada. The bill exempts applicants who enroll in programs within 60 days of the bill's effective date from meeting the new requirement. In addition, the bill 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 the year be a pre-doctoral internship and applies this requirement to licensed clinical psychologists in the laws governing hospitalization of mentally ill persons.

According to a spokesperson at the State Board of Psychology, implementing these provisions in the bill will not have a significant fiscal impact on the Board's administrative costs. The Board currently licenses individuals who obtain doctoral degrees from countries other than the United States and Canada.

Rules for degree equivalency

The bill removes the requirement that the Board 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 from another country is equivalent to a degree from an institution in the United States. Promulgating rules for determining whether a degree is equivalent to a degree in psychology from an institution in the United States will be accomplished within the Board's existing budget.

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