

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 654 (Delegate Hubbard)  
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Health Occupations - License to Practice Psychology - Doctoral Degree in Psychology**

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This bill expands what the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists recognizes as a doctoral program that qualifies an applicant to practice psychology in the State. Thus, a qualifying degree can be from a program either (1) accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association at the time the degree was awarded; or (2) that meets a broader range of criteria than published in 1977 by the Council for National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. Accordingly, a degree from a doctoral program in psychology may qualify even if it (1) is located outside the United States and Canada; (2) was not accredited at the time the degree was awarded but is now; (3) was completed before 1981 for U.S. programs and before 1988 for Canadian programs; or (4) no longer exists. The bill also repeals the statutory licensure requirement for an applicant to have at least one year of board-approved professional supervised experience after the award of his or her doctoral degree.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in special fund revenues due to licensing fee revenue generated from additional qualifying applicants under the bill. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** A doctoral degree in psychology means (1) a degree from a program that at the time of award is accredited by the American Psychological Association or is listed in the designated doctoral programs in psychology published by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; or (2) a doctoral degree in psychology that meets the criteria for a doctoral degree in psychology published in 1977 by the council.

To qualify for a license to practice psychology, an applicant must be of good moral character; at least 18 years old; have a doctoral degree in psychology; pass a board exam; and have at least two years of board approved professional supervised experience in psychology, at least one year of which has occurred after the award of a doctoral degree.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 951 (Senator Lenett) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 2009  
ncs/mcr

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Analysis by: Sarah K. Volker

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510