

Chapter 205

(House Bill 276)

AN ACT concerning

Health Occupations – Psychologists – Penalties for Misrepresentation and Practicing Without a License

FOR the purpose of altering certain penalties for a violation of certain provisions of law governing the practice of psychology; authorizing the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to assess a civil fine of not more than a certain amount in accordance with certain regulations against a person who violates certain provisions of law prohibiting the practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice psychology without a license; requiring the Board to pay certain penalties into a certain fund; and generally relating to the practice of psychology in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 18–401 and 18–402
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 18–404
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

18–401.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice psychology in this State unless licensed by the Board.

(b) Each violation of this section is a separate offense.

18–402.

(a) Unless authorized to practice psychology under this title, a person may not represent to the public by title, by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the person is authorized to practice psychology in this State.

(b) Unless authorized or permitted to do so by this title, a person may not use as a title or describe the services the person provides by use of the words “psychological”, “psychologist”, or “psychology”.

18-404.

(A) A person who violates any provision of this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding [~~\$500~~] **\$10,000** or imprisonment in jail not exceeding [~~6 months~~] **1 YEAR** or both.

(B) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 18-401 OF THIS SUBTITLE IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$50,000 TO BE ASSESSED BY THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL PAY ANY PENALTY COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION INTO THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS FUND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.