

# **HB0911 psych respecialization crossover.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dan Martin

Position: FAV

**House Bill 911 Health Occupations - Psychologists – Licensure Qualifications**

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

April 5, 2022

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 911 as amended in the House.

HB 911 amends the Health Occupations Article to recognize, for purposes of licensure by the State Board of Psychologists, a practice-oriented postdoctoral respecialization certificate that meets certain accreditation requirements.

This section of the Health Occupations Article – which defines the necessary doctoral training educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist – is out of date. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the National Register, which is a division of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), neither maintains a list of joint designated programs nor provides equivalency assessments for degrees falling outside of that list. The announcement that ASPPB would no longer carry out this function was made in April 2014 to allow time for state licensing laws and statutes to be changed. Guidance and suggested wording for laws, statutes, and regulations following these changes were approved and made available by ASPPB in October 2017.

Most states across the country have taken action to update their statutes, ensuring that a variety of paths to securing licensure as a psychologist – including respecialization – remain available. Maryland law, however, has not been updated to reflect these changes at the national level. The consequence is that Marylanders with Doctoral Degrees in Psychology that are not from “practice-oriented” programs have few viable pathways to receiving the licensure necessary to provide clinical services to Maryland residents. HB 911 would create such a pathway by allowing these individuals to meet the education requirements for licensure via a postdoctoral respecialization certificate in a practice-oriented program.

Maryland is contending with a mental health workforce crisis that is limiting access to care from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. The state is home to 48 federally designated mental health professional shortage areas,<sup>1</sup> including 16 entire counties.<sup>2</sup> As demand for mental health care continues to increase, we must ensure our law does not preclude those willing and able to deliver care from doing so. **For this reason, MHAMD supports HB 911 and urges a favorable report.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Health Resources & Services Administration, <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>

<sup>2</sup> Rural Health Information Hub, <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/7?state=MD>

*For more information, please contact Dan Martin at (410) 978-8865*

# **HB911\_Bagnall\_Sponsor.pdf**

Uploaded by: Heather Bagnall

Position: FAV

HEATHER BAGNALL  
Legislative District 33  
Anne Arundel County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee



Annapolis Office  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 160  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3406 · 301-858-3406  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3406  
Heather.Bagnall@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 5, 2022

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 911 - Health Occupations - Psychologists - Doctoral Degree**

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 911.

House Bill 911 is a workforce development bill for the mental health workforce here in Maryland. This bill allows for post-doctoral clinical re-specialization training, in appropriate programs, to enable psychologists to meet the educational requirements for license. This path to licensure would only be offered to individuals who already have a doctoral degree in psychology. By creating this additional avenue for psychologists to become clinically licensed, the mental health workforce in the state will safely and effectively increase by number of licensed clinical psychologists.

This pathway for meeting education requirements for clinical licensure for doctoral psychologists is already standard in 40 states throughout the country as well as within the Federal government, within the VA, and the Military.

The advocates and the Board of Examiners spent many hours with bill drafting to revise the bill to address the concerns of all stakeholders. The bill before you represents consensus by all stakeholders and all stakeholders are now in full support of the bill.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 911.

# House Bill 0911 - Health Occupations - Psychologis

Uploaded by: Mark Trullinger

Position: FAV

## **Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

### **Bill: House Bill 0911 - Health Occupations - Psychologists - Licensure Qualifications**

#### **Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and number other residents of Maryland with Doctoral Degrees in Psychology that are not from “practice-oriented” programs, meaning clinical, counseling, or school psychology. We have been unable to meet licensure requirements in Maryland since we graduated after 2018 due to the discontinuation of the nationwide National Register Joint Designation program and equivalency assessments. Given the need to increase the mental health workforce, we strongly encourage you to **SUPPORT House Bill 0911 – House Bill 0911 - Health Occupations - Psychologists - Licensure Qualifications**. It will allow those of us who desire to provide clinical services to the residents of Maryland, as licensed psychologists, to meet the educational requirements by adding another specialty on top of our current doctoral degree.

The CDC states that from 2020-2030 the need for clinical psychologists is approximately 13,400 clinical psychologists a year are needed. According to the American Psychological Association (APA), their accredited doctoral degree programs and internships will produce approximately 4,650 a year by 2023. This will only meet about 35% of yearly need. With the addition of doctoral respecialization programs, this number will be able to increase more rapidly to meet the need, because about half the doctoral degree graduates in psychology per year are from non “practice-oriented” programs. This would allow those individuals, like us, to pursue post-doctoral respecializations in “practice oriented” psychology. Moreover, the respecialization programs, as specified in this legislation, are already able to meet educational requirements for licensure in 40 other states and are accepted by the VA, Military, Defense Department, and other federal agencies as meeting educational requirements for clinical psychologist positions.

The post-doctoral respecialization programs that this bill would allow to meet the education requirements for licensure as a psychologist in Maryland are a significant undertaking, involving the completion of an additional 3-5 years of education and training. And, the only post-doctoral respecialization certificates that would meet this bill’s criteria are offered by the same departments who have a doctoral degree program that is “practice oriented” and holds accreditation by the American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association. This requirement ensures that those who seek a respecialization meet the same standards as those who graduated from doctoral degree programs that were accredited by the American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association. Moreover, as of 2019, American Psychological Association’s policy is to encourage respecialization programs that meet the criteria outlined in this legislation.

For these reasons, we ask the committee to **favorably report on House Bill 0911 - Health Occupations - Psychologists - Licensure Qualifications**.

Sincerely,  
Mark Trullinger, PhD, BCN, QEEG-D, Registered Psychology Associate

# **MPA Testimony 2022 - Support - Senate hearing on H**

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: FAV



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: 410-992-7732. [www.marylandpsychology.org](http://www.marylandpsychology.org)

**OFFICERS OF THE BOARD**

***President***

Linda McGhee, PsyD, JD

April 5, 2022

***President-elect***

Rebecca Resnik, PsyD

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair

***Past President***

Esther Finglass, PhD

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

2 West

***Secretary***

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

***Treasurer***

Brian Corrado, PsyD

**RE: HB 911 - SUPPORT**

***Representatives-at-large***

Shalena Heard, PhD

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

***Representative to APA Council***

Peter Smith, PsyD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, asks the **Health, Education, and Environmental Affairs Committee to FAVORABLY report on HB 911 as it came over from the House.**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

***Communications***

Robyn Waxman, PhD

HB 911 would allow an efficient mechanism for doctoral level Psychologists who did not specialize in the provision of clinical care to clients to obtain the training and experience necessary to deliver those services to the public under the auspices of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

***Diversity***

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

This bill is a small step towards providing **increased access to mental health care** for Marylanders. As a result of the recent and ongoing pandemic, it has become clear that the need for mental health services is fast outstripping the ability of currently licensed providers to provide mental health care to those in need. Not only must we increase access to care, but we must be careful to maintain the quality of mental health care that is delivered to our citizens. Increasing access to care while disregarding the quality of care is not helpful and is likely to prove harmful to those who might receive substandard care. This bill ensures that those who seek a respecialization certificate are required to meet the same standards as those who are graduated from degree programs that are accredited by both the American Psychological Association and the Canadian Psychological Association.

***Early Career Psychologist***

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

***Educational Affairs***

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

***Ethics***

Cindy Sandler, PhD

***Legislative***

Pat Savage, PhD

***Membership***

Linda Herbert, PhD

Lastly, this bill was written to minimize the administrative impact on the Maryland Board of Psychological Examiners while providing an avenue for increased access to quality mental health care.

***Professional Practice***

Selena Snow, PhD

For these reasons, and many others, the **MPA STRONGLY urges the Health, Education, and Environmental Affairs Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 911.** Please feel free to contact MPA's Government Affairs Representatives Barbara Brocato at [barbara@bmbassoc.com](mailto:barbara@bmbassoc.com) or Dan Shattuck at [dans@bmbassoc.com](mailto:dans@bmbassoc.com) if we can be of assistance.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS**

**OFFICER**

Paul C. Berman, PhD

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Stefanie Reeves, CAE

Sincerely,

*Linda McGhee*

Linda McGhee, Psy.D., JD

President

*R. Patrick Savage, Jr.*

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs



# **Pat Savage - Personal Testimony - Support - House**

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: FAV



---

April 1, 2022

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 911 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to you on HB 911. I am truly sorry that I was unable to attend the hearing today but wanted to take the opportunity to **strongly urge you to provide a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 911.**

I am a licensed psychologist in Maryland who lives and works in Maryland. I have been in practice for about 30 years and have never experienced the demand for mental health services that I have witnessed, first hand, over the last year or two. On average I turn away 30-40 people a month that are seeking mental health care. At this point, I am a solo practitioner. I share this with you to give you some sense of the size of the need for mental health services today as those in group practices I know are also being overwhelmed by the demand for mental health services. I believe that demand has spiked as a result of the stressors encountered while living through the COVID-19 Pandemic and the continuing progress that has been made to destigmatize mental health care in Maryland.

HB 911, at its heart, is designed to increase access to care while maintaining the quality of mental health care in Maryland at a time of unprecedented demand for mental health services. Some have called this the second pandemic that will be with us long after COVID-19 becomes endemic.

HB 911 amends Article - Health Occupations Section 18-101(c) and 18-302(f) Annotated Code of Maryland, **formally** creating a third path to licensure as a psychologist. This path is only provided to those individuals who already possess a doctoral degree in psychology that does not specifically train an individual to provide mental health services directly to individuals in the public. HB 911 does this by allowing those individuals, who already possess a doctoral degree in psychology, to return to a psychology department that is American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited to offer one of the three degrees that allow one to provide mental health services to the public, in order for those individuals to obtain the additional education and training required to respecialize as a mental health service provider. This training and education are designed, by the psychology department, to be equivalent to that obtained by one who obtains a doctoral degree directly from a program accredited to grant degrees to mental health specialists. This path eliminates the need for individuals already possessing a doctoral degree in psychology to obtain a second doctoral degree, saving one year of time and thousands of dollars to provide desperately needed mental health services to the public, **hence lowering an unnecessary barrier to practice.**

Please note HB 911 specifically addresses the training requirements to insure that those graduating from respecialization programs have equivalent training to those graduating from programs providing the three degrees currently accredited by APA and/or CPA.

It is also important to note that these respecialization programs are accepted as adequate proof of training and education to practice psychology by many other states, the VA and the Federal Government. It is my understanding,

that there are already psychologists who graduated from a respecialization program granted licenses and practicing in Maryland.

I want to emphasize that this bill creates a pathway to licensure while preserving the level of education and training of providers entering the practice of psychology in Maryland, and placing no real additional burden on the Board of Examiners who oversees the profession of psychology in Maryland. Our hope is that this bill takes one small step towards expanding the mental health workforce in the state of Maryland.

HB 911 was significantly revised before leaving the House after a number of meetings between legislators and stake holders. All of whom agreed with the intent of this bill. Subsequently, the bill was sent to legislative drafting to capture the intent agreed to by all parties and stakeholders involved in those discussions. We were informed that to accomplish the intention of the consensus reached between the stakeholders, there were some structural changes required in order for HB 911 to properly amend Title 18 of the Health Occupations Code concerning the licensure qualifications for psychologists. After several hours of discussion and meetings with Legislative Services HB 911 was drafted into it's current form and passed out of the House. We worked hard to avoid creating any unintended consequences as well as to insure that only the intent agreed upon by the stakeholders and legislators is represented in the current bill: HB 911. I believe that goal was accomplished.

I ask that you provide a **FAVORABLE report on HB911**. It is one small step of many that will result in increased access to quality mental health care in Maryland.

I thank you for this opportunity to address you. I would be glad to answer any questions that might arise or clarify any concerns you might have. I can be reached at my email at [doctorpat@olneynorthbethesdapsychology.com](mailto:doctorpat@olneynorthbethesdapsychology.com) or by phone at 301-587-2818.

Sincerely



R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D. ABMP  
Licensed Psychologist, MD 2219

**4 - HB 911 - EHEA - Bd. of Psych - LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



# Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Crystal L. Barksdale, Chair | Lorraine Smith, Executive Director  
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 | Phone: 410-764-4786

## 2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: HB 911**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

---

**TITLE: - Health Occupations – Psychologists – Licensure Qualifications**

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

House Bill (HB) 911 expands the eligibility qualifications to become licensed as a psychologist by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board) in the State of Maryland.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Board supports HB 911 as amended.

Thank you for your consideration. The Board respectfully asks for a favorable vote. Please contact Lorraine Smith, Executive Director at [Lorraine.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:Lorraine.smith@maryland.gov) or at 410-764-4786 if additional information is needed.

*The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*