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Health and Government Operations
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2022

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

Good afternoon Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 911.

House Bill 911 is a workforce development bill for the behavioral health workforce here in Maryland. This bill would allow for post-doctoral clinical re-specialization training, in appropriate programs, to enable psychologists to meet the educational requirements for licensure. By creating this additional avenue for psychologists to become clinically licensed, the behavioral 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 Maryland's surrounding states as well as within the Federal government, within the VA, and the Military. Around 40 states have open criteria allowing requirements to be met without a full re-specialization.

I have submitted a clarifying amendment to make clear that the certificate is practice-oriented and issued by the Department of Psychology through an accredited doctoral degree program. You can find this amendment submitted with my testimony.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 911.



HB0911/323624/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

21 FEB 22
16:53:00

BY: Delegate Bagnall

(To be offered in the Health and Government Operations
Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 911

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 1, after "A" insert "PRACTICE-ORIENTED"; strike beginning with "FROM" in line 1 down through "THROUGH" in line 3 and substitute "THAT WAS ISSUED BY A DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY THAT, AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED, HAD"; and in line 3, strike "IS" and substitute "WAS".

Source:

<https://www.hpu.edu/about-us/information/report-of-licensing-requirements-for-professional-psychologists-psyd-2020.pdf>