



Board of Examiners of Psychologists

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2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 26
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Psychologists – Licensure Qualifications

BILL ANALYSIS:

This Bill expands the eligibility qualifications to become licensed as a psychologist by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board). Specifically, the bill allows individuals with degrees that are regionally accredited to qualify for licensure if they complete a certain respecialization program and additional supervised training and experience.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board supports HB 26. The Bill as written expands the eligibility requirements for licensure as a psychologist to certain individuals who do not currently qualify for licensure as a psychologist. The Board appreciates that individuals may choose to change career paths and recognizes that respecialization programs allow non-clinically trained individuals to access a career in clinical psychology. However, the Board's primary mission is to protect the public, and as such it wants to ensure that the highest standards for safe and ethical practice are maintained. As a result, the Board believes any respecialization program should specifically include a supervised internship akin to that required for psychologists with degrees from nationally-accredited programs.

Thank you for your consideration. The Board of Examiners of Psychologists respectfully asks for a favorable vote for HB 26 with the proposed amendment. For more information, please contact Lorraine Smith, Executive Director, at lorraine.smith@maryland.gov or at 410-764-4786.

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