SLS 24RS-212

ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 57

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

PSYCHOLOGISTS. Provides relative to the practice of psychology. (8/1/24)

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 37:2356.4, relative to licensed psychological associates; to create a licensed
3	psychological associate license; to provide for qualifications and requirements for
4	licensure; to provide for limitations of licensure; to provide for powers and duties of
5	the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 37:2356.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
8	§2356.4. Licensed psychological associate; licensure
9	A.(1) The board shall issue a license as a licensed psychological associate
10	to any person who files an application upon a form and in such a manner as the
11	board prescribes, accompanied by the fee required by this Chapter, and who
12	furnishes evidence to the board that, except as otherwise required by law, the
13	person meets all of the following criteria:
14	(a) Is at least twenty-one years of age.
15	(b) Is of good moral character.
16	(c) Has completed a master's degree in health service or general applied
17	psychology from an approved psychology program or equivalent.

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1	(d) Has completed supervised practice, as defined by the board, under
2	the supervision of a licensed psychologist, board approved supervisor, or
3	medical psychologist licensed in accordance with R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq, with the
4	supervision occurring over a period of no less than two years and not more than
5	six years from the original date the supervision was approved.
6	(e) Has passed validated assessments and examinations approved by the
7	board.
8	(f) Has demonstrated professional knowledge of laws, rules, and
9	standards regarding the practice of psychology in Louisiana.
10	(2) If the board reasonably believes that a person applying for a license
11	or for a renewal of a license is not physically and mentally competent to render
12	psychological services with reasonable skill and safety to his patients, or is
13	afflicted with a disease or condition, either physical or mental, that would
14	impair his competency to render psychological services, the board may request
15	that the person submit to a physical examination by a medical doctor approved
16	by the board or a mental health examination by a psychologist, a medical
17	psychologist, or psychiatrist approved by the board. If the person refuses to
18	submit to the examination, the board, after contradictory hearing and upon
19	finding reasonable cause, may issue an order requiring the person to submit to
20	the physical or mental health examination. A person who is ordered to submit
21	to a physical or mental health examination shall not be eligible for licensure or
22	renewal of license prior to such examination. Proceedings pursuant to this
23	Paragraph shall be conducted in compliance with the Administrative Procedure
24	<u>Act.</u>
25	B. A licensed psychological associate may practice independently.
26	C. Practice of a licensed psychological associate shall include rendering
27	or offering mental health counseling and psychotherapy services for prevention,
28	assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral, and
29	addiction disorders to individuals, groups, or families.

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1	D. The licensed psychological associate shall only practice within
2	boundaries of their established competence and shall be able to demonstrate the
3	competence as required by the board.
4	E.(1) A licensed psychological associate may perform independent
5	administration and scoring of single dimensional symptom scales and check
6	<u>lists.</u>
7	(2) A licensed psychological associate shall not perform any of the
8	following:
9	(a) The independent administration, scoring, or interpretation of:
10	(i) Psychological tests.
11	(ii) Personality.
12	<u>(iii) Psychopathology.</u>
13	(iv) Intellectual functioning.
14	(v)Academic achievement.
15	(vi) Neuropsychological functioning.
16	(vii) Forensic assessments.
17	(b) Diagnoses of severe mental illness, major disorders, or mental
18	disorders as defined by the board.
19	(c) Any additional prohibitions prescribed by the board.
20	F. Nothing in this Section shall allow a licensed psychological associate
21	in general applied psychology to provide health or mental health services to
22	individuals, groups, or families.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

SB 57 Original	DIGEST 2024 Regular Session	Lambert				
<u>Present law</u> provides for powers and duties of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (board).						

Proposed law creates a new licensed psychological associate license issued by the board.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for qualifications and requirements for a person to receive the license.

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Proposed law provides certain discretion to the board in issuing the license.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for the scope of practice and limitations for licensed psychological associates.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for additional limitations for licensed psychological associates in general applied psychology.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 37:2356.4)