

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL NO. 294

BY SENATOR NEVERS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PSYCHOLOGISTS. Transfers the regulation of medical psychologists from the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and provides for requirements for and rights acquired by licensure, prescribing drugs, and other regulations for such profession. (8/15/09)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 644(A) and (D)(1) and 905.5.1(F), R.S. 9:2800.2(A), R.S. 15:560.2(B)(1), R.S. 17:7.1(D), R.S. 22:998(A) and (C), and 1043(A)(4), R.S. 23:1371.1(2), R.S. 28:2(12.1) and (22)(b), 51.1(A)(2)(a) and 221(10), R.S. 37:1744(A)(2), 1745(A)(2), 1745.14(C)(4), 2360(A)(1), (2) and (3), 2365(A) and (B), and 3386.1(15)(b), R.S. 40:1098.2(5)(b) and 2114(B), and R.S. 44:4(29) and to enact Part VI of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 37:1360.51 through 1360.72 and R.S. 37:2356.1, and to repeal Part II of Chapter 28 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 37:2371 through 2378, relative to medical psychologists; to transfer the regulation of medical psychologists from the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for definitions; to provide for powers and duties of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for licensure; to provide for a certificate of advanced practice; to provide for standards of practice; to create the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee; to provide for privileged communications; to provide for continuing medical education; to provide for

1 violations and penalties; to provide for orders to nurses; to provide for transfer of  
2 files; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to make certain language corrections  
3 to current law; to provide for rules and regulations; and to provide for related  
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 644(A) and (D)(1) and 905.5.1(F) are  
7 hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 Art. 644. Appointment of sanity commission; examination of defendant

9  
10 A. Within seven days after a mental examination is ordered, the court shall  
11 appoint a sanity commission to examine and report upon the mental condition of the  
12 defendant. The sanity commission shall consist of at least two and not more than  
13 three members who are licensed to practice medicine in Louisiana, who have been  
14 in the actual practice of medicine for not less than three consecutive years  
15 immediately preceding the appointment, and who are qualified by training or  
16 experience in forensic evaluations. The court may appoint, in lieu of one physician,  
17 a clinical psychologist **or medical psychologist** who is licensed to practice  
18 psychology in Louisiana, who has been engaged in the practice of clinical or  
19 counseling psychology for not less than three consecutive years immediately  
20 preceding the appointment, and who is qualified by training or experience in forensic  
21 evaluations. Every sanity commission shall have at least one psychiatrist as a  
22 member of the commission, unless one is not reasonably available, in which case, the  
23 commission shall have at least one clinical psychologist as a member of the  
24 commission. No more than one member of the sanity commission shall be the  
25 coroner or any of his deputies.

26 \* \* \*

27 D.(1) The court, in any judicial district which enters into a cooperative  
28 endeavor agreement with the local mental health unit, in lieu of appointing a sanity  
29 commission as provided in Paragraph A, may appoint the local mental health unit to

1 examine and report on the mental condition of the defendant. If the local mental  
 2 health unit is ordered to conduct the examination, it shall form a clinical team,  
 3 consisting of at least two but not more than three members, to conduct the  
 4 examination. The clinical team shall be composed of one or more licensed physicians  
 5 with at least three years experience in the study of psychiatry in an approved United  
 6 States General Psychiatry Residency Program; if only one such licensed physician  
 7 is a member of the clinical team, the remaining members of the clinical team may  
 8 be composed of clinical psychologists, **medical psychologists**, or licensed clinical  
 9 social workers, who are qualified by training or experience in forensic evaluations.

10 \* \* \*

11 Art. 905.5.1. Mental retardation

12 \* \* \*

13 F. When a defendant makes a claim of mental retardation under this Article,  
 14 the state shall have the right to an independent psychological and psychiatric  
 15 examination of the defendant. A psychologist **or medical psychologist** conducting  
 16 such examination must be licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of  
 17 Psychologists **or the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, whichever is**  
 18 **applicable**. If the state exercises this right, and upon written motion of the defendant,  
 19 the state shall provide the defendant, within time limits set by the court, any and all  
 20 medical, correctional, educational, and military records, and all raw data, tests, test  
 21 scores, notes, behavioral observations, reports, evaluations, and any other  
 22 information of any kind reviewed by any state expert in forming the basis of his  
 23 opinion that the defendant is not mentally retarded. If the state fails to comply with  
 24 any such order, the court may impose sanctions as provided by Article 729.5.

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 2. R.S. 9:2800.2(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

27 §2800.2. Psychologist, psychiatrist, marriage and family therapist, licensed  
 28 professional counselor, and social worker; limitation of liability

29 A. When a patient has communicated a threat of physical violence, which is

1 deemed to be significant in the clinical judgment of the treating psychologist or  
 2 psychiatrist, or marriage and family therapist, or licensed professional counselor, or  
 3 social worker, against a clearly identified victim or victims, coupled with the  
 4 apparent intent and ability to carry out such threat, the psychologist, licensed under  
 5 R.S. 37:2351 through 2369, **the medical psychologist, licensed under R.S.**  
 6 **37:1360.51 through 1360.72,** or the psychiatrist, licensed under R.S. 37:1261  
 7 through 1291, or the social worker, credentialed under R.S. 37:2701 through 2723,  
 8 treating such patient and exercising reasonable professional judgment, shall not be  
 9 liable for a breach of confidentiality for warning of such threat or taking precautions  
 10 to provide protection from the patient's violent behavior.

11 \* \* \*

12 Section 3. R.S. 15:560.2(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

13 §560.2. Louisiana Sex Offender Assessment Panel

14 \* \* \*

15 B. Each panel shall consist of three members who are employees of the  
 16 department and are selected by the secretary to serve on a panel. The secretary shall  
 17 select the makeup of the panel based upon the feasibility, practicability, and  
 18 effectiveness of each panel as determined by the secretary and established by rules  
 19 adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and in  
 20 accordance with the following provisions:

21 (1) One member shall be **either** a psychologist licensed by the Louisiana  
 22 State Board of Examiners of Psychologists **or a medical psychologist licensed by**  
 23 **the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners** who has been engaged in the  
 24 practice of clinical or counseling psychology for not less than three consecutive years  
 25 or a physician in the employ or under contract to the department whose credentials  
 26 and experience are not incompatible with the evaluation of the potential threat to  
 27 public safety that may be posed by a sexually violent predator or a child sexual  
 28 predator.

29 \* \* \*

1 Section 4. R.S. 17:7.1(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

2 §7.1. Certification of teachers; certification of principals and superintendents;  
3 certification of school psychologists

4 \* \* \*

5 D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall, by  
6 regulation, prescribe the qualifications, provide for the certification, and provide for  
7 the supervision of school psychologists in the employ of any public agency regulated  
8 by the board, notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 37:2363 or any other provisions  
9 of law to the contrary. The certification requirements shall not be less than those  
10 requirements established by the National Association of School Psychology. Nothing  
11 herein shall be construed as permitting a person certified under the provisions of this  
12 Subsection to offer to render, or to render his services as a psychologist in any setting  
13 other than his institutional employment unless he has been licensed under the  
14 provisions of R.S. 37:2356 **or licensed as a medical psychologist under the**  
15 **provisions of R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.**

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 5. R.S. 22:998(A) and (C), and 1043(A)(4) are hereby amended and  
18 reenacted to read as follows:

19 §998. Hospital and medical expense policies; services of licensed psychologists

20 A. Whenever any hospital or medical expense policy or hospital or medical  
21 service contract issued, or issued for delivery in this state provides for the  
22 reimbursement of health related services that can lawfully be performed by a duly  
23 licensed psychologist as regulated under the provisions of R.S. 37:2351-2368 **or by**  
24 **a duly licensed medical psychologist as regulated under the provisions of R.S.**  
25 **37:1360.51et seq.,** the insured or other person entitled to benefits under such  
26 contract shall be entitled to reimbursements for such services performed by a duly  
27 licensed psychologist notwithstanding any provisions of the contract to the contrary.

28 \* \* \*

29 C. The provisions of this Section shall apply only to those services which a



1 treatment of mental retardation.

2 \* \* \*

3 Section 7. R.S. 28:2(12.1) and (22)(b), 51.1(A)(2)(a) and 221(10) are hereby  
4 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

5 §2. Definitions

6 Whenever used in this Title, the masculine shall include the feminine, the  
7 singular shall include the plural, and the following definitions shall apply:

8 \* \* \*

9 (12.1) "Medical psychologist" means a psychologist who has undergone  
10 specialized training in clinical psychopharmacology and has passed a national  
11 proficiency examination in psychopharmacology approved by the ~~State Board of~~  
12 ~~Examiners of Psychologists~~ **Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners** and who  
13 holds **a current and valid license** from the ~~board~~ ~~a current certificate of prescriptive~~  
14 ~~authority, as defined in R.S. 37:2371(2)~~ **Louisiana State Board of Medical**  
15 **Examiners**. For the purposes of this Chapter a medical psychologist shall have at  
16 least three years training, primary experience, or both, in diagnosis and treatment of  
17 mental illness.

18 \* \* \*

19 (22) \* \* \*

20 (b) "Psychologist" means an individual licensed to practice psychology in  
21 Louisiana in accordance with R.S. 37:2351 et seq., **or licensed to practice medical**  
22 **psychology in Louisiana in accordance with R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.**, and who has  
23 been engaged in the practice of a clinical specialty for not less than three years.

24 \* \* \*

25 §51.1. Treatment facility; staff membership and institutional privileges; certain  
26 health care providers

27 A. \* \* \*

28 (2) Staff membership, specifically delineated institutional privileges, or both,  
29 granted to a medical psychologist shall be conditioned upon all of the following

1 requirements:

2 (a) The applicant medical psychologist shall have a valid, current,  
3 unrestricted ~~certificate of prescriptive authority~~ **license** issued to him by the  
4 Louisiana State Board of **Medical** Examiners of ~~Psychologists~~.

5 \* \* \*

6 §221. Definitions

7 As used in this Part:

8 \* \* \*

9 (10) "Psychologist" means a clinical **or medical** psychologist who is licensed  
10 to practice psychology in Louisiana.

11 \* \* \*

12 Section 8. R.S. 37:1744(A)(2), 1745 (A)(2), 1745.14(C)(4), 2360(A)(1), (2) and (3),  
13 2365(A) and (B), and 3386.1(15)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:2356.1  
14 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §1744. Disclosure of financial interest by referring health care providers

16 A. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the  
17 following meanings:

18 \* \* \*

19 (2) "Health care provider" means a person, partnership, or corporation,  
20 licensed by this state to provide health care or professional services as a physician,  
21 dentist, chiropractor, podiatrist, optometrist, physical therapist, psychologist,  
22 **medical psychologist**, licensed professional counselor, registered or licensed  
23 practical nurse, pharmacist, and any officer, employee, or agent thereof acting in the  
24 course and scope of his employment.

25 \* \* \*

26 §1745. Prohibition on payment for patient referrals

27 A. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the  
28 following meanings:

29 \* \* \*



1 practice of psychology that the board is authorized by law to issue.

2 (2) "Bureau" means the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and  
3 Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety  
4 and Corrections.

5 (3) "Criminal history record information" means information collected  
6 by state and federal criminal justice agencies on individuals consisting of  
7 identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, bills  
8 of information, or any formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising  
9 therefrom, including sentencing, criminal correctional supervision, and release,  
10 but does not include intelligence for investigatory purposes, nor does it include  
11 any identification information which does not indicate involvement of the  
12 individual in the criminal justice system.

13 (4) "FBI" means the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States  
14 Department of Justice.

15 (5) "Licensure" means the granting of any license, permit, certification,  
16 or registration that the board is authorized to issue.

17 B. In addition to any other requirements established by regulation, the  
18 board may require an applicant, as a condition of licensure:

19 (1) To submit a full set of fingerprints, in a form and manner prescribed  
20 by the board.

21 (2) To permit the board to request and obtain state and national criminal  
22 history record information on the applicant.

23 (3) To collect from the applicant, in addition to all other applicable fees  
24 and costs, such amount as may be incurred by the board in requesting and  
25 obtaining state and national criminal history record information on the  
26 applicant.

27 C. In accordance with the provisions and procedures prescribed by this  
28 Section, the board may request and obtain state and national criminal history  
29 record information from the bureau and the FBI relative to any applicant for

1       licensure whose fingerprints the board has obtained pursuant to this Section for  
 2       the purpose of determining the applicant's suitability and eligibility for  
 3       licensure.

4               D. Upon request by the board and upon the board's submission of an  
 5       applicant's fingerprints and such other identifying information as may be  
 6       required, the bureau shall conduct a search of its criminal history record  
 7       information relative to the applicant and report the results of its search to the  
 8       board within sixty days from receipt of any such request. The bureau may  
 9       charge the board a processing fee for conducting and reporting on any such  
 10       search.

11               E. If the criminal history record information reported by the bureau to  
 12       the board does not provide grounds for disqualification of the applicant for  
 13       licensure under the applicable law administered by the board, the board shall  
 14       have the authority to forward the applicant's fingerprints and such other  
 15       identifying information as may be required to the FBI with a request for a  
 16       search of national criminal history record information relative to the applicant.

17               F. Any and all state or national criminal history record information obtained  
 18       by the board from the bureau or FBI which is not already a matter of public record  
 19       shall be deemed nonpublic and confidential information restricted to the exclusive use  
 20       of the board, its members, officers, investigators, agents, and attorneys for the purpose  
 21       of evaluating the applicant's eligibility or disqualification for licensure. No such  
 22       information or records related thereto shall, except with the written consent of the  
 23       applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be released or otherwise  
 24       disclosed by the board to any other person or agency.

25                               \*       \*       \*

26       §2360. Violation and penalties

27               A. It shall be a misdemeanor:

28               (1) For any person not licensed under this Chapter **or Part VI of Chapter 15**  
 29       of this Title to represent himself as a psychologist; or

1 (2) For any person not licensed under this Chapter **or Part VI of Chapter 15**  
2 **of this Title** to engage in the practice of psychology; or

3 (3) **Except for medical psychologists duly licensed by the Louisiana State**  
4 **Board of Medical Examiners,** For **for** any person to represent himself as a  
5 psychologist during the time that his license as a psychologist shall be suspended or  
6 revoked or lapsed; or

7 \* \* \*

8 §2365. Scope of Chapter

9 A. Members of other professions which are licensed or certified under the  
10 laws of this state shall be permitted to render services consistent with their  
11 professional training and code of ethics, provided they do not represent themselves  
12 as psychologists or their work as psychological. **The provision of this Subsection**  
13 **shall not apply to those persons duly licensed as medical psychologists by the**  
14 **Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.**

15 B. Duly ordained clergy and Christian Science practitioners shall be  
16 permitted to function in their ministerial capacity provided they do not represent  
17 themselves as psychologists, or their work as psychological, unless they have been  
18 licensed under the provisions of this Chapter **or Part VI of Chapter 15 of this Title.**

19 \* \* \*

20 §3386.1. Definitions

21 As used in this Chapter the following definitions shall apply:

22 \* \* \*

23 (15) "Qualified mental health professional" means:

24 \* \* \*

25 (b) A psychologist licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:2351 et seq., **or a medical**  
26 **psychologist licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.**

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 9. R.S. 40:1098.2(5)(b) and 2114(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to  
29 read as follows:

1 §1098.2. Definitions

2 As used in this Subpart, the following terms shall have the following  
3 meanings:

4 \* \* \*

5 (5) "Qualified professional" shall include:

6 \* \* \*

7 (b) A licensed clinical social worker, psychologist licensed under R.S.  
8 37:2351 et seq., **medical psychologist licensed under R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.**  
9 physician licensed to practice medicine by the Louisiana State Board of Medical  
10 Examiners, or licensed professional counselor.

11 \* \* \*

12 §2114. Organization of medical and dental staff

13 \* \* \*

14 B. Each hospital offering care or services within the scope of the practice of  
15 psychology, as defined in R.S. 37:2352(5), ~~prior to January 1, 1993,~~ shall establish  
16 rules, regulations, and procedures for consideration of an application for medical  
17 staff membership and clinical privileges submitted by a psychologist licensed to  
18 practice psychology by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists **or**  
19 **a medical psychologist licensed to practice medical psychology by the Louisiana**  
20 **State Board of Medical Examiners.** No hospital shall deny such medical staff  
21 membership and clinical privileges solely because the applicant is licensed under  
22 R.S. 37:2351 et seq., **or R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.**

23 \* \* \*

24 Section 10. R.S. 44:4(29) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

25 §4. Applicability

26 This Chapter shall not apply:

27 \* \* \*

28 (29) To any records, writings, accounts, recordings, letters, exhibits, data,  
29 pictures, drawings, charts, photographs, or copies or memoranda thereof, and any

1 report or reports concerning the fitness of any person to receive or continue to hold  
 2 a license to practice as a psychologist in the custody or control of the Louisiana State  
 3 Board of Examiners of Psychologists **or to receive or continue to hold a license to**  
 4 **practice as a medical psychologist in the custody or control of or the Louisiana**  
 5 **State Board of Medical Examiners**; however, any action taken by the board and  
 6 any legal grounds upon which such action is based, relative to the fitness of any  
 7 person to receive or continue to hold a license to practice as a psychologist shall be  
 8 a public record, and statistical reports which do not reveal the identity of any  
 9 licensed psychologist may be released to the public.

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 11. Part VI of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
 12 1950, comprised of R.S. 37:1360.51 through 1360.72, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 **PART VI. MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

14 **§1360.51. Short title**

15 **This Part may be cited as the "Medical Psychology Practice Act."**

16 **§1360.52. Definitions**

17 **As used in this Part the following words, terms, and phrases have the**  
 18 **meaning ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a**  
 19 **different meaning:**

20 **(1) "Board" means the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners as**  
 21 **established in R.S. 37:1263.**

22 **(2) "Drug" means the same as the term "drug" as defined in R. S.**  
 23 **40:961(16), including controlled substances except narcotics, but shall be limited**  
 24 **only to those agents related to the diagnosis and treatment or management of**  
 25 **mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse or cognitive disorders.**  
 26 **Nothing in this Part shall be construed to permit a medical psychologist to**  
 27 **administer or prescribe a narcotic.**

28 **(3) "LAMP" means the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology.**

29 **(4) "LSBEP" means the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of**

1           **Psychologists.**

2                   **(5) "Medical psychologist" or "MP" means a psychological practitioner**  
3                   **who has undergone specialized training in clinical psychopharmacology and has**  
4                   **passed a national proficiency examination in psychopharmacology approved by**  
5                   **the board. Such practice specifically includes the authority to administer,**  
6                   **prescribe, and distribute without charge, drugs as defined in this Part.**

7                   **(6) "Medical Psychology Advisory Committee" means a committee,**  
8                   **established by the board for purposes as defined in this Part.**

9                   **(7) "Medical psychology" means that profession of the health sciences**  
10                   **which deals with the examination, diagnosis, psychological, pharmacologic and**  
11                   **other somatic treatment and/or management of mental, nervous, emotional,**  
12                   **behavioral, substance abuse or cognitive disorders, and specifically includes the**  
13                   **authority to administer, distribute without charge and/or prescribe drugs as**  
14                   **defined in this Part. In addition, the practice of medical psychology includes**  
15                   **those practices defined in R.S. 37:2352(5).**

16                   **(8) "Mental, nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse and**  
17                   **cognitive disorders" means those disorders, illnesses or diseases listed in either**  
18                   **the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental**  
19                   **Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association or the mental,**  
20                   **nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse and cognitive disorders listed**  
21                   **in the International Classification of Diseases published by the World Health**  
22                   **Organization.**

23                   **(9) "Narcotics" means those natural or synthetic opioid analgesics, and**  
24                   **their derivatives used to relieve pain.**

25                   **(10) "Nurse" for the purpose of this Part means a licensed practical**  
26                   **nurse or a registered nurse.**

27                   **(11) "Physician" means an individual licensed by the board to engage in**  
28                   **the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana.**

29           **§1360.53. Powers and duties of the board**

1           **The board shall have and exercise with respect to medical psychologists,**  
2           **all powers and duties granted to it by R.S. 37:1261 et seq., relative to physicians.**

3           **In addition, the board shall have the authority to:**

4                   **(1) Establish and publish standards of medical psychology practice in**  
5                   **accordance with those developed and accepted by the profession.**

6                   **(2) Approve, deny, revoke, suspend, renew and reinstate licensure or**  
7                   **certification of duly qualified applicants.**

8                   **(3) Adopt, promulgate, revise, and enforce orders, rules and regulations**  
9                   **for initial licensure, renewal and certificates of advanced practice as the board**  
10                  **may deem necessary to ensure the competency of applicants, the protection of**  
11                  **the public and proper administration of this Part in accordance with the**  
12                  **Administrative Procedure Act.**

13                  **(4) Conduct hearings on charges calling for the denial, suspension,**  
14                  **revocation, or refusal to renew a license or certificate.**

15           **§1360.54. License required**

16                   **No one shall engage in the practice of medical psychology, or hold**  
17                   **himself out as a medical psychologist in this state unless licensed in accordance**  
18                   **with the provisions of this Part.**

19           **§1360.55. Qualifications of applicants**

20                   **A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part or other law, on or**  
21                   **before January 1, 2010, any medical psychologist shall be issued a medical**  
22                   **psychology license by the board upon satisfaction of all of the following criteria:**

23                           **(1) Holds a current and unrestricted license in good standing to practice**  
24                           **psychology issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.**

25                           **(2) Holds a current and unrestricted certificate of prescriptive authority**  
26                           **issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.**

27                           **(3) Holds a controlled and dangerous substance permit issued by the**  
28                           **Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.**

29                           **(4) Holds a controlled substance registration issued by the United States**

1           **Drug Enforcement Administration.**

2                   **B. After January 1, 2010, the board shall issue a medical psychology**  
3           **license to applicants who submit an application upon a form and in such a**  
4           **manner as the board prescribes and who furnish evidence to the board which**  
5           **meets all of the following criteria:**

6                   **(1) Holds a current and unrestricted license in good standing to practice**  
7           **psychology issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.**

8                   **(2) Has successfully graduated with a post-doctoral master's degree in**  
9           **clinical psychopharmacology from a regionally accredited institution or has**  
10          **completed equivalent training to the post-doctoral master's degree approved by**  
11          **the board. The curriculum shall include instruction in anatomy and physiology,**  
12          **biochemistry, neurosciences, pharmacology, psychopharmacology, clinical**  
13          **medicine/ pathophysiology and health assessment, including relevant physical**  
14          **and laboratory assessment.**

15                  **(3) Has passed a national exam in psychopharmacology approved by the**  
16          **board.**

17                  **C. Medical psychologists licensed by the board shall be eligible for a**  
18          **controlled and dangerous substance permit and registration issued by the state**  
19          **and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.**

20          **§1360.56. Consultation and collaboration for medical psychologists without a**  
21          **certificate of advanced practice**

22                  **A. Medical psychologists shall prescribe only in consultation and**  
23          **collaboration with the patient's primary or attending physician, and with the**  
24          **concurrence of that physician.**

25                  **B. The medical psychologist shall also re-consult with the patient's**  
26          **physician prior to making changes in the patient's medication treatment**  
27          **protocol, as established with the physician, or as otherwise directed by the**  
28          **physician. The medical psychologist and the physician shall document the**  
29          **consultation in the patient's medical record.**

1           **C. In the event a patient does not have a primary or attending physician,**  
2           **the medical psychologist shall not prescribe for that patient.**

3           **D. The board shall promulgate rules relating to how the consultation and**  
4           **collaboration shall be affected in consultation with the Medical Psychology**  
5           **Advisory Committee.**

6           **§1360.57. Certificate of advanced practice**

7           **Medical psychologists who satisfy the requirements specified by Section**  
8           **1360.55 (A) of this Part and who possess all of the following additional**  
9           **qualifications to the satisfaction of the board shall be issued a certificate of**  
10           **advanced practice:**

11           **(1) Three years of experience practicing as a medical psychologist. For**  
12           **those individuals licensed under R.S. 37:1360.55 (A), such experience shall be**  
13           **deemed to have commenced with the issuance of the original certificate of**  
14           **prescriptive authority issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of**  
15           **Psychologists.**

16           **(2) Treatment of a minimum of one hundred patients including twenty-**  
17           **five or more involving the use of major psychotropics and twenty-five or more**  
18           **involving the use of major antidepressants which demonstrate the competence**  
19           **of the medical psychologist.**

20           **(3) The recommendation of two collaborating physicians, each of whom**  
21           **holds an unconditional license to practice medicine in Louisiana, and who are**  
22           **each familiar with the applicant's competence to practice medical psychology.**

23           **(4) The recommendation of the Medical Psychology Advisory**  
24           **Committee.**

25           **(5) The completion of a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing**  
26           **medical education relating to the use of medications in the management of**  
27           **patients with psychiatric illness commencing with the issuance of a certificate**  
28           **of prescriptive authority by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of**  
29           **Psychologists prior to January 1, 2010, or by the board after this date.**

1           **§1360.58. Issuance and renewal of license**

2           **A. The board shall issue a license or certificate to any person who meets**  
3           **the qualifications provided for in this Part and the rules and regulations of the**  
4           **board and who pays the respective fees fixed by the board.**

5           **B. A license or certificate issued under the provisions of this Part shall**  
6           **be subject to annual renewal and shall expire and become null and void unless**  
7           **renewed in the manner prescribed by the board.**

8           **§1360.59. Designation of license**

9           **A. A license or certificate issued under this Part shall designate the**  
10           **licensee's status with respect to advanced practice.**

11           **B. Any individual who is issued a license as a medical psychologist under**  
12           **the provisions of this Part may use the words "medical psychologist" or**  
13           **"psychologist" or may use the letters "MP" in connection with his name to**  
14           **denote licensure.**

15           **§1360.60. Reinstatement of license**

16           **A. Any license or certificate suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted**  
17           **by the board may be reinstated by the board.**

18           **B. A license or certificate that has expired without renewal may be**  
19           **reinstated by the board for a period of two years from the date of expiration,**  
20           **provided the applicant is otherwise eligible under the provisions of this Part,**  
21           **pays the applicable fees, and satisfies the continuing education and such other**  
22           **requirements as may be established by the board.**

23           **§1360.61. Standards of practice for medical psychologists**

24           **A. Medical psychologists shall be authorized to administer and prescribe**  
25           **only drugs recognized and customarily used for the management of mental,**  
26           **nervous, emotional, behavioral, substance abuse and cognitive diseases or**  
27           **disorders.**

28           **B. Standards for the treatment or management of common**  
29           **complications of the drug therapy provided by medical psychologists will be set**

1 forth in rules and regulations which shall be promulgated and adopted by the  
2 board, in consultation with the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee, in  
3 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

4 C. Medical psychologists may not order, administer, prescribe or  
5 distribute narcotics, as defined in this Part.

6 D. Nothing in this Part shall be interpreted or construed as permitting  
7 a medical psychologist to pharmacologically treat patients for other primary  
8 medical conditions, unless specifically defined in and authorized by the board  
9 in such rules and regulations as might be necessary.

10 E. Practitioners licensed under this Part may order and interpret  
11 laboratory studies and other medical diagnostic procedures, as necessary for  
12 adequate pretreatment health screening, diagnosis of mental, nervous,  
13 emotional, behavioral, substance abuse and cognitive disorders and treatment  
14 maintenance, including those necessary for the monitoring of potential side-  
15 effects associated with medications prescribed by the medical psychologist.

16 F. Medical psychologists shall maintain Basic Life Support certification.

17 G. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, nothing in this Part shall  
18 prohibit or restrict medical psychologists, licensed under the provisions of this  
19 Part, from employing or otherwise utilizing psychological technicians or  
20 psychometricians to assist in the provision of non-medical psychological  
21 services.

22 (1) Psychological technicians or psychometricians shall be authorized  
23 to administer psychological tests and provide other technical, ancillary non-  
24 medical psychological services as specifically ordered by the medical  
25 psychologist.

26 (2) Psychological technicians or psychometricians shall minimally hold  
27 a bachelor's degree in psychology from an accredited college or university.

28 (3) Psychological technicians or psychometricians shall administer  
29 psychological tests or provide other technical, ancillary non-medical

1 psychological services only under the general supervision of the medical  
2 psychologist.

3 (4) The medical psychologist employing or otherwise utilizing the  
4 services of a psychological technician or psychometrician assumes the  
5 professional responsibility and liability for all services and actions undertaken  
6 by the psychological technician or psychometrician acting on behalf of the  
7 medical psychologist.

8 (5) The medical psychologist shall provide the board, in such manner  
9 and form as directed by the board, with the name and credentials  
10 of any psychological technician or psychometrician under his or her  
11 supervision.

12 (6) Psychological technicians or psychometrician in the employ or  
13 otherwise utilized by a medical psychologist under the provisions of this Part  
14 may provide other technical, ancillary non-medical psychological services as  
15 might be approved by the board.

16 (7) The board, in consultation with the Medical Psychology Advisory  
17 Committee, shall have the authority to promulgate such rules and regulations  
18 necessary to otherwise govern the activities of psychological technicians or  
19 psychometricians.

20 §1360.62. Standards of practice for medical psychologists holding certificates  
21 of advanced practice

22 A. Patients receiving care from a medical psychologist who holds a  
23 certificate of advanced practice issued under this Part shall have an established  
24 primary, attending or referring physician licensed by the board who shall be  
25 responsible for the patient's overall medical care.

26 B. The primary, attending or referring physician shall evaluate the  
27 patient for medical conditions in accordance with customary practice standards,  
28 and as might be indicated based on the medications that the patient is receiving  
29 and/or risk factors that may be present. If the patient has been referred to a

1 medical psychologist holding a certificate of advanced practice for the express  
2 purpose of evaluation and treatment to include drug management by the  
3 primary, attending or referring physician, this condition shall be considered  
4 met.

5 C. The medical psychologist shall provide the primary, attending or  
6 referring physician with a summary of the treatment planned at the initiation  
7 of treatment.

8 D. The medical psychologist shall provide the primary, attending or  
9 referring physician with follow up reports as may be dictated by the patient's  
10 condition.

11 E. The medical psychologist shall provide the patient's primary,  
12 attending or referring physician with a summary of the patient's condition and  
13 treatment no less than annually.

14 F. The requirements for Subsections B, C and D of this Section shall be  
15 considered satisfied if the medical psychologist provides the physician with a  
16 copy of the initial examination and follow up visit records.

17 §1360.63. Medical Psychology Advisory Committee

18 A. A Medical Psychology Advisory Committee shall be established by  
19 the board for the purpose of reviewing and/or recommending action on  
20 application for licensure, recommending educational requirements for other  
21 medical activities that may be provided by medical psychologists,  
22 recommending changes in related statutes and rules, as well as other activities  
23 as might be requested by the board.

24 B. The Medical Psychology Advisory Committee shall consist of the  
25 following five members selected by the board:

26 (1) One member shall be a physician who is certified by the American  
27 Board of Medical Specialties or the American Association of Osteopathic  
28 Physicians equivalent in the specialty of psychiatry and who is licensed to  
29 practice medicine in this state selected from a list of names submitted by the

1 Louisiana State Medical Society and who is recommended by the Louisiana  
2 Psychiatric Medical Association and the Louisiana Academy of Medical  
3 Psychology.

4 (2) Four members shall be medical psychologists selected from a list of  
5 names recommended by the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology.

6 C. The executive director of the board shall serve as an ex officio, non-  
7 voting member of the committee.

8 D. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the board. A vacancy in an  
9 unexpired term shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

10 E. The committee may meet as needed but shall meet at least twice a  
11 year. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for  
12 the transaction of all business.

13 F. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation but shall  
14 be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attendance at meetings and other  
15 official business on behalf of the committee or the board.

16 §1360.64. Privileged communications

17 A. In judicial proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or juvenile, legislative  
18 and administrative proceedings, and proceedings preliminary and ancillary  
19 thereto, a patient or his legal representative, may refuse to disclose or prevent  
20 the disclosure of confidential information, including information contained in  
21 administrative records, communicated to a medical psychologist licensed under  
22 this Part, or persons reasonably believed by the patient to be so licensed, or to  
23 their employees or other persons under their supervision, for the purpose of  
24 diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of any mental or emotional condition or  
25 disorder.

26 B. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the medical psychologist  
27 is presumed to be authorized to claim the privilege on behalf of the patient.

28 C. This privilege may not be claimed by or on behalf of the patient in the  
29 following circumstances:

1           **(1) Where child abuse, elder abuse, or the abuse of disabled or**  
2           **incompetent individuals is known or reasonably suspected.**

3           **(2) Where the validity of a will of a deceased former patient is contested**  
4           **or his mental or emotional condition is at issue otherwise on judicial or**  
5           **administrative proceedings.**

6           **(3) Where such information is necessary for the defense of the medical**  
7           **psychologist in a malpractice action brought by the patient.**

8           **(4) Where an immediate threat of physical violence against a clearly**  
9           **identified victim or victims is disclosed to the medical psychologist.**

10           **(5) In the context of civil commitment proceedings, where an immediate**  
11           **threat of self-inflicted damage is disclosed to the medical psychologist.**

12           **(6) Where the patient puts his mental state in issue by alleging mental**  
13           **or emotional damages or condition in any judicial or administrative**  
14           **proceedings.**

15           **(7) Where the patient is examined pursuant to court order.**

16           **(8) Where the board is conducting an investigation or hearing.**

17           **§1360.65. Continuing medical education**

18           **A. Medical psychologists shall annually complete a minimum of twenty**  
19           **hours of approved continuing medical education relevant to the practice of**  
20           **medical psychology.**

21           **B. Approved sponsors of continuing medical education for practitioners**  
22           **licensed under this Part shall include, the Louisiana Academy of Medical**  
23           **Psychologists, the Louisiana State Medical Society, sponsors accredited by the**  
24           **Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education approved to offer**  
25           **Category 1 educational activities, and other sponsors as may be approved by the**  
26           **board.**

27           **C. A minimum of twenty-five percent of a medical psychologist's**  
28           **continuing medical education shall be provided by the Louisiana Academy of**  
29           **Medical Psychology.**

1           D. In addition, to meeting the requirements for continuing medical  
2           education, as required in Subsection A of this Section, medical psychologists  
3           shall annually also complete a minimum of fifteen hours of continuing education  
4           in psychology. Approved sponsors for this additional requirement shall include  
5           the Louisiana Psychological Association, the American Psychological  
6           Association, and other sponsors as may be approved by the board.

7           E. A minimum of two of the required hours of continuing medical  
8           education or additional continuing education, as set forth in this Section, shall  
9           specifically involve ethics, as relevant to the practice of medical psychology.

10          §1360.66. Fees

11           The board, under its authority established in R.S. 37:1281, shall fix fees  
12           for the purpose of administering the provisions of this Part.

13          §1360.67. Causes for refusal to issue, suspension or revocation of licenses,  
14                           permits, and certificates

15           A. The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license  
16           or certificate, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or  
17           certificate issued under this Part for the following causes:

18                   (1) Conviction of a felony.

19                   (2) Conviction of any crime or offense arising out of or relating to the  
20           practice of medical psychology.

21                   (3) Fraud, deceit, or perjury in obtaining a diploma or certificate.

22                   (4) Fraud or deception in applying for or procuring a license to practice  
23           psychology or medical psychology.

24                   (5) Making any fraudulent or untrue statement to the board.

25                   (6) Refusal to appear before the board after having been ordered to do  
26           so in writing by a duly authorized agent of the board.

27                   (7) Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect  
28           the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or  
29           psychological dependence.

1           **(8) Refusing to submit to the examinations and inquiry of an examining**  
2           **committee of physicians appointed or designated by the board to inquire into**  
3           **an applicant or licensee's physical and mental fitness and ability to practice**  
4           **medical psychology with reasonable skill and safety to patients.**

5           **(9) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled**  
6           **substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate medical**  
7           **justification therefore or in other than a legal or legitimate manner.**

8           **(10) Impersonation of another licensed practitioner.**

9           **(11) Incompetence.**

10          **(12) Voluntary or involuntary commitment or interdiction by due**  
11          **process of law.**

12          **(13) Failure to self-report in writing to the board any personal action**  
13          **which constitutes a violation of this Part within thirty days of the occurrence.**

14          **(14) Solicitation of patients or self-promotion through advertising or**  
15          **communication, public or private, which is fraudulent, false, deceptive, or**  
16          **misleading.**

17          **(15) Making or submitting false, deceptive, or unfounded claims, reports,**  
18          **or opinions to any patient, insurance company or indemnity association,**  
19          **company, individual, or governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining**  
20          **any thing of economic value.**

21          **(16) Soliciting, accepting, or receiving any thing of economic value in**  
22          **return for and based on the referral of patients to another person, firm, or**  
23          **corporation or in return for the prescription of medications.**

24          **(17) Unprofessional conduct.**

25          **(18) Continuing or recurring practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing**  
26          **and usually accepted standards of medical psychology practice in this state.**

27          **(19) Gross, willful, and continued overcharging for professional services.**

28          **(20) Abandonment of a patient.**

29          **(21) Knowingly performing any act which, in any way, assists an**

1 unqualified person to practice medical psychology, or having professional  
2 connection with or lending one's name to an illegal practitioner.

3 (22) Inability to practice medical psychology with reasonable skill or  
4 safety to patients because of mental illness or deficiency; physical illness,  
5 including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or loss of  
6 motor skills; or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.

7 (23) Violation of ethical principles and codes of conduct as promulgated  
8 by the American Psychological Association or violation of any code of ethics  
9 adopted in the rules and regulations of the board or other immoral,  
10 unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct as defined in the rules and regulations  
11 of the board.

12 (24) Practicing medical psychology in such a manner as to endanger the  
13 welfare of patients, including but not limited to:

14 (a) Harassment, intimidation, or abuse, sexual or otherwise, of a patient.

15 (b) Engaging in sexual intercourse or other sexual contact with a patient.

16 (c) Gross malpractice, repeated malpractice, or gross negligence in the  
17 practice of medical psychology.

18 (25) Use of repeated untruthful, deceptive, or improbable statements  
19 concerning the licensee's qualifications or the effects or results of proposed  
20 treatment, including functioning outside of one's professional competence  
21 established by education, training, and experience.

22 (26) Exercising undue influence in such a manner as to exploit the  
23 patient for financial or other personal advantage to the practitioner or a third  
24 party.

25 (27) Refusal of a licensing authority of another state to issue or renew a  
26 license, permit, or certificate to practice psychology or medical psychology in  
27 that state or the revocation, suspension, or other restriction imposed on a  
28 license, permit, or certificate issued by such licensing authority which prevents  
29 or restricts practice in that state, or the surrender of a license, permit, or

1 certificate issued by another state when criminal or administrative charges are  
2 pending or threatened against the holder of such license, permit, or certificate.

3 (28) Violation of any rules and regulations of the board, or any  
4 provisions of this Part.

5 B. The board may, as a probationary condition, or as a condition of the  
6 reinstatement of any license or certificate suspended or revoked hereunder,  
7 require the license or certificate holder to pay all costs of the board proceedings,  
8 including investigator, stenographer, and attorney fees, and to pay a fine not to  
9 exceed five thousand dollars.

10 C. Any license or certificate suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted  
11 by the board may be reinstated by the board.

12 D. The board's final decision in an adjudication proceeding conducted  
13 pursuant to this Section, other than by consent order, agreement, or other  
14 informal disposition, shall constitute a public record, and the board may  
15 disclose and provide such final decision to any person, firm, or corporation, or  
16 to the public generally. The board's disposition of an adjudication proceeding  
17 by consent order shall not constitute a public record, but the board shall have  
18 authority and discretion to disclose such disposition.

19 E. No judicial order staying or enjoining the effectiveness or enforcement  
20 of a final decision or order of the board in an adjudication proceeding, whether  
21 issued pursuant to R.S. 49:964(C) or otherwise, shall be effective, or be issued  
22 to be effective, beyond the earlier of either:

23 (1) One hundred twenty days from the date on which the board's  
24 decision or order was rendered.

25 (2) The date on which the court enters judgment in a proceeding for  
26 judicial review of the board's decision or order issued pursuant to R.S. 49:964.

27 F. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no judicial order  
28 staying, enjoining, or continuing an adjudication proceeding before, or a  
29 preliminary, procedural, or intermediate decision, ruling, order, or action of,

1 the board shall be effective or issued to be effective, whether pursuant to R.S.  
2 49:964 or otherwise, prior to the exhaustion of all administrative remedies and  
3 issuance of a final decision or order by the board.

4 G. No order staying or enjoining a final decision or order of the board  
5 shall be issued unless the district court finds that the applicant or petitioner has  
6 established that the issuance of the stay does neither of the following:

7 (1) Threaten harm to other interested parties, including individuals for  
8 whom the applicant or petitioner may render medical psychology services.

9 (2) Constitute a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of  
10 this state.

11 H. No stay of a final decision or order of the board shall be granted ex  
12 parte. The court shall schedule a hearing on a request for a stay order within  
13 ten days from filing of the request. The court's decision to either grant or deny  
14 the stay order shall be rendered within five days after the conclusion of the  
15 hearing.

16 §1360.68. Persons and practices not affected

17 Nothing in this Part shall be construed as preventing or restricting the  
18 practice, services, or activities of any individual:

19 (1) Licensed in this state by any other law from engaging in the  
20 profession or occupation for which he is licensed.

21 (2) Employed as a medical psychologist by the United States government  
22 in the event such individual practices solely under the direction or control of a  
23 United States governmental agency by which he is employed.

24 §1360.69. Orders to nurses

25 Notwithstanding any law or rule or regulation to the contrary, including,  
26 but not limited to Chapter 11 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
27 1950, it shall be considered to be within the scope of the practice of nursing as  
28 defined in Chapter 11 of said Title 37 for a registered nurse, licensed practical  
29 nurse, and any other health care provider licensed under Chapter 11 of Title 37

1 to execute and effectuate any order or direction otherwise within the scope of  
2 the practice of said health care provider when that order is within the scope of  
3 practice of medical psychology and given to him by a medical psychologist  
4 licensed under Part VI of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised  
5 Statutes of 1950, and, when given in an institutional setting, the order is within  
6 the scope of the privileges granted to the medical psychologist by that  
7 institution.

8 §1360.70. Injunction; penalty; attorney fees; costs

9 A. The board, through its president or the president's designee, may  
10 cause to issue in any competent court, a writ of injunction enjoining any person  
11 from practicing medical psychology in this state as defined herein until such  
12 person obtains a license under the provisions of this Part. This injunction shall  
13 not be subject to being released upon bond.

14 B. In the suit for an injunction, the board, through its president or  
15 designee, may demand of the defendant a penalty of not more than five hundred  
16 dollars, and attorney fees, besides the costs of court. This judgment for penalty,  
17 attorney fees, and costs may be rendered in the same judgment in which the  
18 injunction is made absolute.

19 C. The trial of the proceeding by injunction shall be summary and by the  
20 judge without a jury.

21 §1360.71. Penalties

22 A. It shall be a misdemeanor for any individual:

23 (1) Not licensed under this Part to represent himself as a medical  
24 psychologist.

25 (2) Not licensed under this Part to engage in the practice of medical  
26 psychology.

27 (3) To represent himself as a medical psychologist during the time that  
28 his license as a medical psychologist shall be suspended or revoked or lapsed.

29 (4) To otherwise violate the provisions of this Part.

1                    **B. Such misdemeanor shall be punishable upon conviction by**  
 2                    **imprisonment for not more than six months, or by a fine of not less than one**  
 3                    **hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or both. Each violation**  
 4                    **shall be deemed a separate offense.**

5                    **C. Such misdemeanor shall be prosecuted by the district attorney of the**  
 6                    **judicial district in which the offense was committed in the name of the people**  
 7                    **of the state of Louisiana.**

8                    **§1360.72. Transfer of files**

9                    **The Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists shall provide**  
 10                   **the board with copies of all files relating to medical psychologists.**

11                   Section 12. Part 2 of Chapter 28 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
 12                   1950, comprised of R.S. 37:2371 through 2378, is hereby repealed.

13                   Section 13. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to add the term  
 14                   "medical psychologist" where it is appropriate to the following articles of the Children's  
 15                   Code and Titles and Sections of the revised statutes:

16                   Children's Code Articles 326, 837.1, 1120, 1172, 1173, 1272, R.S. 14:81.2, R.S.  
 17                   15:440.4, and R.S. 23:1775.

18                   Section 14. Sections 1 through 10, 12, 13, and this Section of this Act shall become  
 19                   effective on January 1, 2010.

20                   Section 15. Sections 11 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon  
 21                   signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for  
 22                   bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section  
 23                   18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved  
 24                   by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument was prepared by Greg Waddell. The following  
 digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was  
 prepared by Riley Boudreaux.

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DIGEST

Nevers (SB 294)

Proposed law transfers the regulation of medical psychologists from the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP) to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME).

Proposed law authorizes the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to require an applicant for licensure as a psychologist:

1. To submit a full set of fingerprints.
2. To permit the board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information on the applicant and collect the cost.

Further authorizes such board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information.

Proposed law provides that the LSBME shall have and exercise with respect to medical psychologists, all powers and duties granted to it by R.S. 37:1261 et seq., relative to physicians. Proposed law further provides that the Board shall have the authority to:

- (1) Establish and publish standards of medical psychology practice in accordance with those developed and accepted by the profession.
- (2) Approve, deny, revoke, suspend, renew and reinstate licensure of duly qualified applicants.
- (3) Adopt, promulgate, revise, and enforce orders, rules and regulations for initial licensure, renewal and certificates of advanced practice, as well as that the board may deem necessary to ensure the competency of applicants, the protection of the public and proper administration of proposed law in accordance with the APA.
- (4) Conduct hearings on charges calling for the denial, suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a license.

Proposed law provides that no one shall engage in the practice of medical psychology, or hold himself out as a medical psychologist in this state unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

Proposed law provides that on or before January 1, 2010, any medical psychologist shall be issued a medical psychology license who satisfies all of the following criteria:

- (1) Holds a current and unrestricted license to practice psychology issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology.
- (2) Holds a current and unrestricted certificate of prescriptive authority issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology.
- (3) Holds a controlled and dangerous substance permit issued by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.
- (4) Holds a permit issued by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Proposed law provides that after January 1, 2010, the board shall issue a medical psychology license to applicants who submit an application upon a form and in such a manner as the board prescribes and who furnish evidence to the board which meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Holds a license in good standing in psychology in Louisiana.

- (2) Has successfully graduated with a post-doctoral master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology from a regionally accredited institution or has completed equivalent training to the post-doctoral master's degree approved by the board.
- (3) Has passed a national exam in psychopharmacology approved by the board.

Proposed law provides that medical psychologists licensed by the board shall be eligible for a controlled and dangerous substance permit issued by the state and for United States Drug Enforcement Agency permits issued for controlled substances.

Proposed law provides that medical psychologists shall prescribe only in consultation and collaboration with the patient's primary or attending physician, and with the concurrence of that physician. The medical psychologist shall also re-consult with the patient's physician prior to making changes in the patient's medication treatment protocol, as established with the physician, or as otherwise directed by the physician. The medical psychologist and the physician shall document the consultation in the patient's medical record.

Proposed law provides that in the event a patient does not have a primary or attending physician, the medical psychologist shall not prescribe for that patient.

Proposed law provides that medical psychologists who meet all of following additional requirements shall be issued a certificate of advanced practice:

- (1) Three years of experience practicing as a medical psychologist, with such experience commencing with the original license to practice medical psychology from the LSBEP.
- (2) Treatment of a minimum of one hundred patients including twenty-five or more involving the use of major psychotropics and twenty-five or more involving the use of major antidepressants which demonstrate the competence of the medical psychologist.
- (3) The recommendation of two collaborating physicians, each of whom holds an unconditional license to practice medicine in Louisiana, and who are each familiar with the applicant's competence to practice medical psychology.
- (4) The recommendation of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee.
- (5) The completion of a minimum of 100 hours of continuing medical education relating to the use of medications in the management of patients with psychiatric illness commencing with the issuance of a certificate of prescriptive authority by the LSBEP prior to January 1, 2010, or by the LSBME after that date.

Proposed law provides that the LSBME shall issue a license to any person who meets the qualifications provided for in proposed law and the rules and regulations of the board and who pays the respective license fees fixed by the board.

Proposed law provides that a license issued by the LSBME shall be subject to annual renewal and shall expire and become null and void unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the board.

Proposed law provides that a license issued by the LSBME shall designate the licensee's status with respect to advanced practice. Any individual who is issued a license as a medical psychologist under the provisions of this Part may use the words "medical psychologist" or may use the letters "MP" in connection with his name to denote licensure.

Proposed law provides that any license or certificate suspended, revoked, or otherwise

restricted by the board may be reinstated by the board. Proposed law further provides that a license that has expired without renewal may be reinstated by the board for a period of two years from the date of expiration, provided the applicant is otherwise eligible, pays the applicable fees, and satisfies the continuing education and such other requirements as may be established by the LSBME.

Proposed law provides that medical psychologists shall be authorized to administer and prescribe only drugs recognized and customarily used for the management of mental, nervous, emotional, cognitive, substance abuse and behavioral diseases or disorders. Standards or the treatment or management of common complications of the drug therapy provided by medical psychologists will be set forth in rules and regulations which shall be promulgated and adopted by the LSBME, in consultation with the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee.

Proposed law provides that medical psychologists may not order, administer, prescribe or distribute narcotics, as defined in proposed law. Proposed law further provides that nothing shall be interpreted or construed as permitting a medical psychologist to pharmacologically treat patients for other primary medical conditions, unless specifically defined in, and authorized by, the board in such rules and regulations as might be necessary.

Proposed law provides that practitioners licensed by the LSBME may order and interpret laboratory studies and other medical diagnostic procedures, as necessary for adequate pretreatment health screening, diagnosis of mental, nervous, emotional, cognitive, substance abuse and behavioral disorders and treatment maintenance, including those necessary for the monitoring of potential side-effects associated with medications prescribed by the medical psychologist.

Proposed law requires medical psychologists to maintain Basic Life Support certification.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall prohibit or restrict medical psychologists from employing or otherwise utilizing psychological technicians or psychometricians to assist in the provision of non-medical psychological services.

Proposed law provides for certain duties and requirements of psychometricians.

Proposed law provides that patients receiving medical care from a medical psychologist shall have an established primary, attending or referring physician licensed by the LSBME who shall be responsible for the patient's overall medical care. The primary, attending or referring physician shall evaluate the patient for medical conditions in accordance with customary practice standards, and as might be indicated based on the medications that the patient is receiving and/or risk factors that may be present.

Proposed law provides that the medical psychologist shall provide the primary, attending or referring physician with a summary of the treatment planned at the initiation of treatment and shall provide the primary, attending or referring physician with follow-up reports when significant changes occur in the patient's condition. Proposed law further requires the medical psychologist to provide the patient's primary, attending or referring physician with a summary of the patient's condition and treatment no less than annually.

Proposed law creates the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee for the purpose of reviewing and/or recommending action on application for licensure, recommending educational requirements for other medical activities that may be provided by medical psychologists, recommending changes in related statutes and rules, as well as other activities as might be requested by the LSBME.

Proposed law provides that the membership of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee shall consist of the following five members selected by the board:

- (1) One member shall be a physician who is certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Association of Osteopathic Physicians equivalent in the specialty of psychiatry and licensed to practice medicine in this state selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana State Medical Society recommended by the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association and the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology.
- (2) Four members shall be medical psychologists recommended by the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology.

Proposed law provides that the executive director of the LSBME shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee.

Proposed law provides that members of the committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attendance at meetings and other official business on behalf of the committee or the board.

Proposed law provides that in judicial proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or juvenile, legislative and administrative proceedings, and proceedings preliminary and ancillary thereto, a patient or his legal representative, may refuse to disclose or prevent the disclosure of confidential information, including information contained in administrative records, communicated to a medical psychologist licensed by the LSBME, or persons reasonably believed by the patient to be so licensed, or to their employees or other persons under their supervision, for the purpose of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of any mental or emotional condition or disorder.

Proposed law provides that the privilege may not be claimed by or on behalf of the patient in the following circumstances:

- (1) Where child abuse, elder abuse, or the abuse of disabled or incompetent individuals is known or reasonably suspected.
- (2) Where the validity of a will of a deceased former patient is contested or his mental or emotional condition is at issue otherwise on judicial or administrative proceeding.
- (3) Where such information is necessary for the defense of the medical psychologist in a malpractice action brought by the patient.
- (4) Where an immediate threat of physical violence against a clearly identified victim or victims is disclosed to the medical psychologist.
- (5) In the context of civil commitment proceedings, where an immediate threat of self-inflicted damage is disclosed to the medical psychologist.
- (6) Where the patient puts his mental state in issue by alleging mental or emotional damages or condition in any judicial or administrative proceedings.
- (7) Where the patient is examined pursuant to court order.
- (8) Where the board is conducting an investigation or hearing.

Proposed law requires medical psychologists to annually complete a minimum of 20 hours of approved continuing medical education relevant to the practice of medical psychology. A minimum of 25 percent of a medical psychologist's CME shall be provided by the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology. In addition, to meeting the requirements for continuing medical education, as required in proposed law, medical psychologists shall

annually also complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing education in psychology.

Proposed law provides the LSBME shall fix fees for the purpose of administering the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the LSBME may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or certificate issued for the following causes:

- (1) Conviction of a felony.
- (2) Conviction of any crime or offense arising out of or relating to practice medical psychology.
- (3) Fraud, deceit, or perjury in obtaining a diploma or certificate.
- (4) Fraud or deception in applying for or procuring a license to practice psychology or medical psychology.
- (5) Making any fraudulent or untrue statement to the LSBME.
- (6) Refusal to appear before the LSBME after having been ordered to do so in writing by a duly authorized agent of the board.
- (7) Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence.
- (8) Refusing to submit to the examinations and inquiry of an examining committee of physicians appointed or designated by the LSBME to inquire into an applicant or licensee's physical and mental fitness and ability to practice medical psychology with reasonable skill and safety to patients.
- (9) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate medical justification therefore or in other than a legal or legitimate manner.
- (10) Impersonation of another licensed practitioner.
- (11) Incompetence.
- (12) Voluntary or involuntary commitment or interdiction by due process of law.
- (13) Failure to self-report in writing to the LSBME any personal action which constitutes a violation of proposed law within 30 days of the occurrence.
- (14) Solicitation of patients or self-promotion through advertising or communication, public or private, which is fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading.
- (15) Making or submitting false, deceptive, or unfounded claims, reports, or opinions to any patient, insurance company or indemnity association, company, individual, or governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining any thing of economic value.
- (16) Soliciting, accepting, or receiving any thing of economic value in return for and based on the referral of patients to another person, firm, or corporation or in return for the prescription of medications.

- (17) Unprofessional conduct.
- (18) Continuing or recurring practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical psychology practice in this state.
- (19) Gross, willful, and continued overcharging for professional services.
- (20) Abandonment of a patient.
- (21) Knowingly performing any act which, in any way, assists an unqualified person to practice medical psychology, or having professional connection with or lending one's name to an illegal practitioner.
- (22) Inability to practice medical psychology with reasonable skill or safety to patients because of mental illness or deficiency; physical illness, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills; or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.
- (23) Violation of ethical principles and codes of conduct as promulgated by the American Psychological Association or violation of any code of ethics adopted in the rules and regulations of the LSBME or other immoral, unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct as defined in the rules and regulations of the LSBME.
- (24) Practicing medical psychology in such a manner as to endanger the welfare of patients.
- (25) Use of repeated untruthful, deceptive, or improbable statements concerning the licensee's qualifications or the effects or results of proposed treatment, including functioning outside of one's professional competence established by education, training, and experience.
- (26) Exercising undue influence in such a manner as to exploit the patient for financial or other personal advantage to the practitioner or a third party.
- (27) Refusal of a licensing authority of another state to issue or renew a license, permit, or certificate to practice medical psychology in that state or the revocation, suspension, or other restriction imposed on a license, permit, or certificate issued by such licensing authority which prevents or restricts practice in that state, or the surrender of a license, permit, or certificate issued by another state when criminal or administrative charges are pending or threatened against the holder of such license, permit, or certificate.
- (28) Violation of any rules and regulations of the LSBME, or any provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the LSBME may, as a probationary condition, or as a condition of the reinstatement of any license or certificate suspended or revoked hereunder, require the license or certificate holder to pay all costs of the board proceedings, including investigator, stenographer, and attorney fees, and to pay a fine not to exceed \$5000.

Proposed law provides that the LSBME final decision in an adjudication proceeding conducted pursuant to proposed law, other than by consent order, agreement, or other informal disposition, shall constitute a public record, and the LSBME may disclose and provide such final decision to any person, firm, or corporation, or to the public generally. The LSBME's disposition of an adjudication proceeding by consent order shall not constitute a public record, but the board shall have authority and discretion to disclose such disposition.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed as preventing or restricting the practice, services, or activities of any person:

- (1) Licensed in this state by any other law from engaging in the profession or occupation for which he is licensed.
- (2) Any individual employed as a medical psychologist by the United States government in the event such individual practices solely under the direction or control of a United States governmental agency by which he is employed.

Proposed law provides that the LSBME, through its president or the president's designee, may cause to issue in any competent court, a writ of injunction enjoining any person from practicing medical psychology in this state until such person obtains a license.

Proposed law provides that it shall be a misdemeanor and shall be punishable upon conviction by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or by both such fine and imprisonment, for the following actions:

- (1) For any person not licensed under proposed law to represent himself as a medical psychologist.
- (2) For any person not licensed under proposed law to engage in the practice of medical psychology.
- (3) For any person to represent himself as a medical psychologist during the time that his license as a medical psychologist shall be suspended or revoked or lapsed.
- (4) For any person to otherwise violate the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the LSBEP shall provide the board with copies of all files relating to medical psychologists.

Proposed law changes various provisions of present law to reflect the transfer of regulation of medical psychologists from the LSBEP to the LSBME.

Proposed law gives a court the option of appointing a medical psychologist in lieu of one physician to a two- or three-member sanity commission to examine and report upon the mental condition of a defendant. Authorizes a medical psychologist to be a member of a clinical team from a local mental health unit which is appointed to examine and report on the mental condition of a defendant.

Proposed law authorizes a medical psychologist to perform a mental status examination attesting to the principal's ability to make reasoned decisions concerning his mental health treatment which accompanies an advance directive for mental health treatment.

Proposed law includes medical psychologists in the prohibition on referring patients for services when the referring health care provider has a financial interest served by such referral and the prohibition on being paid for patient referrals.

Proposed law directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to add the term medical psychologist to certain provisions of the Children's Code and certain provisions of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Sections 1 through 10, 12, and 13, are effective on January 1, 2010.

Sections 11 and 14 are effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 644(A) and (D)(1), and 905.5.1(F), R.S. 9:2800.2(A), R.S. 15:560.2(B)(1), R.S. 17:7.1(D), R.S. 22:998(A) and (C), and 1043(A)(4), R.S. 23:1371.1(2), R.S. 28:2(12.1), (22)(b), 51.1(A)(2)(a), and 221(10), R.S. 37:1744(A)(2), 1745(A)(2), 1745.14(C)(4), 2360(A)(1), (2) and (3), 2365(A) and (B), and 3386.1(15)(b), R.S. 40:1098.2(5)(b) and 2114(B), and R.S. 44:4(29); adds R.S. 37:1360.51 - 1360.72, and 2356.1; repeals R.S. 37:2371 - 2378)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill.

1. Authorizes the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to require an applicant for licensure as a psychologist:
  - a. To submit a full set of fingerprints.
  - b. To permit the board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information on the applicant and collect the cost.

Further authorizes such board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information.

2. Adds as a condition for the issuance of a certificate of advanced practice to a medical psychologist the completion of a minimum of 100 hours of continuing medical education relating to the use of medications in the management of patients with psychiatric illness commencing with the issuance of a certificate of prescriptive authority by the LSBEP prior to January 1, 2010, or by the LSBME after that date.
3. Substitutes on the membership of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee a physician who is certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Association of Osteopathic Physicians equivalent in the specialty of psychiatry and recommended by the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association and the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychology for a primary care physician.
4. Removes as a cause for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license, soliciting, accepting, or receiving any thing of economic value in return for and based on the referral of patients to another person, in return for a prescription for medical devices.
5. Gives a court the option of appointing a medical psychologist in lieu of one physician to a two- or three-member sanity commission to examine and report upon the mental condition of a defendant.
6. Authorizes a medical psychologist to be a member of a clinical team from a local mental health unit which is appointed to examine and report on the mental condition of a defendant.
7. Authorizes a medical psychologist to perform a mental status examination attesting to the principal's ability to make reasoned decisions concerning his mental health treatment which accompanies an advance directive for mental health treatment.
8. Includes medical psychologists in the prohibition on referring patients for services when the referring health care provider has a financial interest served by such referral and the prohibition on being paid for patient referrals.