



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 245
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

Jason Hoskins, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Regarding qualifying to sit for the psychologist licensure examination and an existing requirement of two years of supervised professional experience, eliminates, for certain applicants, a requirement that one year be postdoctoral.
- Prohibits the State Board of Psychology from requiring applicants for psychologist licensure that have doctoral degrees from accredited institutions to complete postdoctoral supervised professional experience.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Psychologist licensure

Existing Ohio law requires an applicant for licensure as a psychologist to earn an acceptable score on an entrance examination.¹ To be eligible to sit for this examination, an applicant must meet several requirements, including education and supervised professional experience requirements. The bill modifies the supervised professional experience requirements based on the applicant's educational qualifications, which can be based on any of the following:²

- Receiving an earned doctoral degree from an accredited institution *and* an accredited program;
- Receiving an earned doctoral degree in psychology or school psychology from an accredited institution *but not* an accredited program;

¹ R.C. 4732.11, not in the bill.

² R.C. 4732.10(B)(2).

- Receiving a degree from an academic institution outside of the U.S. or Canada considered by the State Board of Psychology to be equivalent to a doctoral degree in psychology from an accredited program;
- Holding a psychologist license, certificate, or registration required for practice in another state or Canadian jurisdiction for a minimum of ten years and meeting educational, experience, and professional requirements established by the Board.

Supervised professional experience

Under current law, each applicant for a psychologist license must have at least two years (3600 hours total) of supervised professional experience in psychological work of a type satisfactory to the Board.³ For all applicants,⁴ one year of this experience must be a predoctoral internship.⁵ For applicants who have received a doctoral degree from an accredited institution but not an accredited program, or applicants who have received a degree considered equivalent to a doctoral degree from an institution outside of the U.S. or Canada, one year must be postdoctoral.⁶

The bill eliminates the requirement for one year of postdoctoral supervised professional experience for applicants who have received a doctoral degree from an accredited institution but not an accredited program. Those applicants still need two years of supervised professional experience, including the one year predoctoral internship. The bill further prohibits the Board from requiring applicants from accredited institutions, both from an accredited or unaccredited program, from requiring any postdoctoral supervised professional experience to satisfy the supervised professional experience requirement.⁷

Applicants who received an equivalent degree from an institution located outside of the U.S. or Canada continue to be required to have one year of postdoctoral supervised professional experience (as part of the two years that are required).⁸

³ R.C. 4732.10(B)(3) and Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 4732-9-01(A).

⁴ While current law appears to require a predoctoral internship for all applicants, current administrative rules apply the predoctoral internship requirement only to applicants that have an earned doctoral degree from an accredited institution *and* an accredited program. O.A.C. 4732-9-01(C). The rules also appear to exempt from the two-year supervised experience requirement applicants who are psychologists licensed in other states or Canada for a minimum of ten years, if the applicant meets certain conditions. O.A.C. 4732-9-01(D). Thus, it appears other changes in the bill conform current law to existing practice of the Board and will not have a practical effect.

⁵ R.C. 4732.10(B)(3).

⁶ R.C. 4732.10(B)(4).

⁷ R.C. 4732.10(B)(3).

⁸ R.C. 4732.10(B)(4).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-05-21
