



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 772

PRINTERS NO. 1879

PRIME SPONSOR: Gordner

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
Professional Licensure Augmentation Account	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Amends the Professional Psychologists Practice Act to update licensure and practice provisions. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation amends the Professional Psychologists Practice Act (Act 52 of 1972) to do the following:

- Amends the definition of "Practice of psychology" to specifically recognize that psychologists are authorized to diagnose and provide psychological treatment of a mental, emotional or nervous illness or disability, substance abuse, psychological aspects of physical illness and psychoeducational problems.
- Eliminates the licensure exemptions that allow hospitals and state, county or municipal governments to employ unlicensed individuals to practice psychology. Adds language that will allow employees of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Human Services to continue to provide psychological services provided they are under the direction of a licensed psychologist.
- Allows the State Board of Psychology (Board) to issue temporary licenses to licensed psychologists from other states provided the other state has equivalent standards. The Board may refuse a temporary license if the psychologist has a past or pending disciplinary action in another state.
- Eliminates the general licensure exemption that allows school psychologists to have private practices without being licensed, but adds new language allowing school psychologists to have private practices provided they completed all requirements for PA Dept. of Education certification as an Educational Specialist I or II in school psychology on or before June 30, 2018.
- Modifies the 2-year supervised experience requirement for licensure by allowing students to obtain both years during the pre-doctoral period, rather than the current requirement that at least 1 year be post-doctoral.
- Eliminates the 6-month waiting period for a person to re-take a failed licensure examination.
- Gives the Board the authority to prohibit a psychologist with a suspended license from engaging in counseling or other form of mental health practice.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Tim Rodrigo  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 10, 2016

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*