

ASSEMBLY, No. 543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

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District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Revises psychologist training requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** revising psychologist training requirements and amending
2 P.L.1966, c.282.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. Section 17 of P.L.1966, c.282 (C.45:14B-17) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 17. Any person applying to the board, after January 1, 1968,
10 may be admitted to an assembled examination if **【he】** the applicant
11 meets the qualifications set forth in **【section 14(a), (b) and (c)】**
12 subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 14 of P.L.1966, c.282
13 (C.45:14B-14) and provides evidence satisfactory to the board that
14 **【he】** the applicant:

15 (a) Has received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in
16 psychology from a recognized educational institution, or in lieu of
17 **【such】** that degree, a doctoral degree in a closely allied field if it is
18 the opinion of the board that the training required therefor is
19 substantially similar, or has otherwise had training in psychology
20 deemed equivalent by the board;

21 (b) Has engaged for the equivalent of at least **【2】** two years full
22 time, at least **【1】** one year of which was subsequent to **【his】** the
23 applicant receiving the doctoral degree, in professional
24 **【employment】** experience in the practice of psychology under the
25 supervision of a licensed psychologist or of one clearly eligible for
26 licensure in the opinion of the board, which **【employment】**
27 experience the board deems sufficient to warrant its opinion that the
28 applicant is competent to engage in the practice of psychology as a
29 licensed psychologist, subject to **【his】** the applicant satisfying the
30 other requirements for **【such】** that license specified in **【this act】**
31 P.L.1966, c.282 (C.45:14B-1 et seq.). In the case of a person
32 applying to the board after January 1, 2020, or six months after the
33 passage of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
34 this bill), whichever is sooner, the two years of full time professional
35 experience required by this subsection, or any portion thereof, may
36 be completed prior to the applicant receiving a doctoral degree. An
37 applicant who has applied to the board, but who is not yet licensed
38 by the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
39 Legislature as this bill), may update the application to apply
40 professional experience earned prior to the applicant receiving a
41 doctoral degree to the professional experience requirement.

42 (c) The New Jersey Board of Psychological Examiners shall
43 promulgate regulations to implement the changes in the experience

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 requirements of subsection (b) of this section effected by P.L. _____,
2 c. (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
3 (cf: P.L.1966, c.282, s.17)
4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
6
7

8 STATEMENT
9

10 This bill amends the training requirements for psychologists.
11 The bill provides that persons applying to the State Board of
12 Psychological Examiners after January 1, 2020, or six months after
13 the passage of this bill, whichever is sooner, may complete the two
14 years of full time professional experience in the practice of
15 psychology, which are required to be completed prior to licensure,
16 either prior to or subsequent to receiving the requisite doctoral
17 degree.

18 The bill also provides that an applicant who has applied to the
19 board, but who is not yet licensed by January 1, 2020, or six months
20 after the passage of this bill, whichever is sooner, may update the
21 application to apply professional experience earned prior to the
22 applicant receiving a doctoral degree to the professional experience
23 requirement.

24 Current law requires applicants to complete at least one of the
25 two required years of full time professional employment subsequent
26 to the receipt of the requisite degree.