



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL



ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986
TDD: (517) 373-0543

Senate Bill 1315 (Substitute S-2 as reported)

(as passed by the Senate)

Sponsor: Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs

Committee: Economic Development and Regulatory Reform

Date Completed: 6-2-10

RATIONALE

The Public Health Code establishes requirements for an individual to receive a license from the Michigan Board of Psychology. Except as provided for a limited license, an individual must have been granted a doctoral degree in psychology or a closely related field from a regionally accredited or other college, university, or institution approved by the Board. Under an administrative rule that will take effect on August 1, 2011, the doctoral program must have been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association, or have obtained designation by the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). (The National Register and the ASPPB participate in a shared designation.)

In Michigan, 10 programs have been accredited by the APA or obtained the National Register/ASPPB designation, or both. These programs do not include the Michigan School of Professional Psychology in Farmington Hills, which is regionally accredited and is preparing to apply for APA accreditation. Although the rule requiring national accreditation or designation will not take effect for approximately 14 months, the APA accreditation process takes on average 18 months, according to the association's website. In the meantime, there is a concern that prospective students will apply elsewhere. It has been suggested that this situation be addressed in statute.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that, beginning August 1, 2011, a doctoral degree in psychology be from a program that had obtained the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards' National Register designation or had been accredited by the American Psychological Association or the Canadian Psychological Association, or had obtained a similar designation from or been accredited by an entity approved by the Michigan Board of Psychology. A program that was in the process of obtaining the designation or becoming accredited before August 1, 2011, and that obtained the designation or became accredited by August 31, 2015, would meet the bill's requirements.

Under the Code, the Michigan Board of Psychology must promulgate rules requiring an individual granted a psychology license to meet specific criteria. These include a requirement that, except as provided for limited licensure, the individual has been granted a doctoral degree in psychology, or a doctoral degree in a closely related field, from a regionally accredited or other college, university, or institution approved by the Board, which included education and training appropriate to the practice of psychology.

Under the bill, the rules also would have to include the requirement that the program obtained accreditation or designation by August 1, 2011, subject to the provision for a program that obtained accreditation or designation by August 31, 2015, as described above.

MCL 333.18223

ARGUMENTS

(Please note: The arguments contained in this analysis originate from sources outside the Senate Fiscal Agency. The Senate Fiscal Agency neither supports nor opposes legislation.)

Supporting Argument

Originally named the Center for Humanistic Studies, the Michigan School of Professional Psychology was founded in the 1980-1981 academic year. The school was granted accreditation by the North Central Association the following year, and the accreditation was extended to the school's doctoral program when it began in 2000. According to the school's president, after the Michigan Board of Psychology promulgated its rule requiring a program to have national accreditation or designation, with a June 2009 implementation date, the school began the process of preparing to apply for APA accreditation. When it became evident that the school could not meet the original implementation date, it sought an extension until July 2012. Although the Board extended the implementation date to August 2011, the school still is preparing to apply for accreditation.

The APA accreditation process is very complex, and begins when a program submits a "self-study". The self-study will undergo an initial review, which can lead to approval of a site visit by a team of professional colleagues. After the site visit, the team submits a report to the APA's Commission on Accreditation, and the program is placed in the Commission's next program review agenda. According to the APA website, the accreditation process takes on average about 18 months after a program submits a self-study until the Commission makes a decision. The process may take longer, as the Commission can defer making a decision in order to request additional information from the program.

A program may submit a self-study at one of three times during the year. If the Michigan School of Professional Psychology is able to meet the fall 2010 deadline, the earliest that its program would be accredited is the spring of 2012, based on the 18-month average timeline. This makes it virtually impossible for the school to meet the August 1, 2011, deadline in the administrative rule. As a result, students who receive a doctoral degree from the school after that date and before accreditation is granted will not

qualify for a license from the Michigan Board of Psychology, making it unlikely that prospective students will apply there.

The bill would remedy this situation by codifying the rule's requirement for national accreditation or designation by August 1, 2011, but also providing for a school to be considered in compliance if it is in the process of becoming accredited by that date, and becomes accredited within the following four years.

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Steve Angelotti

A0910\S1315a

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.