

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H

1

HOUSE BILL 881

Short Title: Licensed Psychological Assoc. Superv. Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW LICENSED PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES TO PRACTICE
3 INDEPENDENTLY IF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 90-270.139 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 90-270.139. Application; examination; supervision; provisional and temporary licenses.**

7 ...

8 (e) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subsection (e1) of this section, a licensed psychological
9 associate shall be supervised by a qualified licensed psychologist, or other qualified
10 professionals, in accordance with Board rules specifying the format, setting, content, time frame,
11 amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the
12 organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the
13 supervisor. ~~A~~ Except as provided in subsection (e1) of this section, a licensed psychological
14 associate who provides health services shall be supervised, for those activities requiring
15 supervision, supervised by a qualified licensed psychologist holding health services provider
16 certification or by other qualified professionals under the overall direction of a qualified licensed
17 psychologist holding health services provider certification, in accordance with Board rules.
18 Except as provided below, supervision, including the supervision of health services, is required
19 only when a licensed psychological associate engages in: ~~assessment of personality functioning;~~
20 ~~neuropsychological evaluation; psychotherapy, counseling, and other interventions with clinical~~
21 ~~populations for the purpose of preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive, or undesired~~
22 ~~behavior; and, the use of intrusive, punitive, or experimental procedures, techniques, or~~
23 ~~measures. The Board shall adopt rules implementing and defining this provision, and as in the~~
24 ~~practice of psychology evolves, may identify additional activities requiring supervision in order~~
25 ~~to maintain acceptable standards of practice.~~ psychology.

26 (e1) A licensed psychological associate is not subject to supervision by a qualified licensed
27 psychologist and may engage in independent practice if the licensed psychological associate
28 meets all of the following requirements:

- 29 (1) Has 3,000 hours of post-graduate degree experience in the delivery of
30 psychological services under the supervision of one or more qualified licensed
31 psychologists within a time period of at least 24 consecutive months and less
32 than 60 consecutive months.
33 (2) Submits an application for independent practice with proof of the required
34 supervision experience in subdivision (1) of this subsection.



* H 8 8 1 - V - 1 *

1 (e2) The Board shall approve a licensed psychological associate to engage in independent
2 practice if the licensed psychological associate meets the requirements of subsection (e1) of this
3 section.

4"

5 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 90-270.153 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 90-270.153. Provision of health services; certification as health services provider.**

7 (a) Health services, as defined in G.S. 90-270.136(4) and G.S. 90-270.136(8), may be
8 provided by qualified licensed psychological associates, qualified licensed psychologists holding
9 provisional, temporary, or permanent licenses, or qualified applicants. ~~Qualified licensed~~
10 ~~psychological associates, qualified~~ Qualified licensed psychologists holding provisional or
11 temporary licenses, or qualified applicants may provide health services only under supervision
12 as specified in the duly adopted rules of the Board.

13"

14 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021.