

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 57

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

PSYCHOLOGISTS. Provides relative to the practice of psychology. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 37:2356.4, relative to licensed psychological associates; to create a licensed psychological associate license; to provide for qualifications and requirements for licensure; to provide for limitations of licensure; to provide for powers and duties of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:2356.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§2356.4. Licensed psychological associate; licensure**

**A.(1) The board shall issue a license as a licensed psychological associate to any person who files an application upon a form and in such a manner as the board prescribes, accompanied by the fee required by this Chapter, and who furnishes evidence to the board that, except as otherwise required by law, the person meets all of the following criteria:**

**(a) Is at least twenty-one years of age.**

**(b) Is of good moral character.**

**(c) Has completed a master's degree in health service psychology from an approved psychology program or equivalent defined by the board.**

1            (d) Has completed supervised practice, as defined by the board, under  
2            the supervision of a licensed psychologist or medical psychologist licensed in  
3            accordance with R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq, with the post-graduate supervision  
4            occurring over a period of no less than two years and not more than six years  
5            from the original date the supervision was approved.

6            (e) Has passed validated assessments and examinations approved by the  
7            board.

8            (f) Has demonstrated professional knowledge of laws, rules, and  
9            standards regarding the practice of psychology in Louisiana.

10           (2) If the board reasonably believes that a person applying for a license  
11           or for a renewal of a license is not physically and mentally competent to render  
12           psychological services with reasonable skill and safety to his patients, or is  
13           afflicted with a disease or condition, either physical or mental, that would  
14           impair his competency to render psychological services, the board may request  
15           that the person submit to a physical examination by a medical doctor approved  
16           by the board or a mental health examination by a psychologist, a medical  
17           psychologist, or psychiatrist approved by the board. If the person refuses to  
18           submit to the examination, the board, after contradictory hearing and upon  
19           finding reasonable cause, may issue an order requiring the person to submit to  
20           the physical or mental health examination. A person who is ordered to submit  
21           to a physical or mental health examination shall not be eligible for licensure or  
22           renewal of license prior to such examination. Proceedings pursuant to this  
23           Paragraph shall be conducted in compliance with the Administrative Procedure  
24           Act.

25           B. A licensed psychological associate may practice independently.

26           C. Practice of a licensed psychological associate shall include rendering  
27           psychological services to individuals, groups, or families including diagnosis for  
28           the purpose of offering mental health counseling and psychotherapy services for  
29           treatment and prevention of mental, emotional, behavioral, and addiction

1            disorders.

2            D. The licensed psychological associate shall only practice within  
3            boundaries of their established competence and shall be able to demonstrate the  
4            competence as required by the board.

5            E.(1) A licensed psychological associate may perform independent  
6            administration and scoring of single dimensional symptom scales and check  
7            lists.

8            (2) A licensed psychological associate shall not perform any of the  
9            following:

10           (a) The independent administration, scoring, or interpretation of:

11           (i) Psychological tests.

12           (ii) Personality.

13           (iii) Psychopathology.

14           (iv) Intellectual functioning.

15           (v) Academic achievement.

16           (vi) Neuropsychological functioning.

17           (vii) Forensic assessments.

18           (b) Diagnoses of severe mental illness, major disorders, or mental  
19           disorders as defined by the board.

20           (c) Any additional prohibitions prescribed by the board.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

SB 57 Engrossed

DIGEST  
2024 Regular Session

Lambert

Present law provides for powers and duties of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (board).

Proposed law creates a new licensed psychological associate license issued by the board.

Proposed law provides for qualifications and requirements for a person to receive the license.

Proposed law provides certain discretion to the board in issuing the license.

Proposed law provides for the scope of practice and limitations for licensed psychological

associates.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 37:2356.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to  
the original bill

1. Makes changes to qualifications and requirements for a person to receive licensure.
2. Makes changes to the scope of practice and limitations for licensed psychological associates.