
DIGEST

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HB 828 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Miller

Abstract: Provides for the licensing and standards of practice for medical psychologists.

Present law requires a medical psychologist who sought a license before Jan. 1, 2010 to be issued a medical psychology license by the La. State Bd. of Medical Examiners (LSBME) if the medical psychologist satisfied all of the following requirements:

- (1) Holds a current and unrestricted license to practice psychology by the La. State Bd. of Examiners of Psychologists.
- (2) Holds a current and unrestricted certificate of prescriptive authority issued by the La. State Bd. of Examiners of Psychologists.
- (3) Holds a controlled and dangerous substance permit issued by the La. Bd. of Pharmacy.
- (4) Holds a controlled substance registration issued by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Proposed law repeals these requirements.

Present law requires a medical psychologist who sought a license after Jan. 1, 2010 to be issued a medical psychology license by LSBME and meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Hold a current and unrestricted license to practice psychology by the La. State Bd. of Examiners of Psychologists.
- (2) Have successfully graduated with a post-doctoral master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology from a regionally accredited institution or a similar institution subject to approval by LSBME.
- (3) Have passed a national exam in psychopharmacology approved by LSBME.

Proposed law removes the reference to Jan. 1, 2010 and adds the requirement that the applicant must have successfully completed at least three years of clinical experience.

Proposed law provides that once a medical psychologist receives a license to practice medical psychology from LSBME, the licensee shall be exclusively licensed by LSBME and shall not be

required to obtain or maintain a license to practice psychology issued by any other board or professional organization. Proposed law further states that a medical psychologist may also choose to maintain a license as a psychologist who is governed by the La. State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Present law states that a medical psychologist shall only prescribe medication in consultation and collaboration with a patient's primary or attending physician and with concurrence of that physician.

Proposed law removes the specific reference to physician and replaces it with primary care provider, which is defined as a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner responsible for a patient's primary care. Proposed law explains that if the primary care provider is not physician, the medical psychologist shall include the supervising or collaborating physician on any notices, updates, or summaries.

Present law provides that a medical psychologist must re-consult with a patient's physician prior to making any changes to the medication treatment protocol, as established or directed by the physician. The re-consultation shall be documented by the medical psychologist in the patient's medical record. In the event that a patient does not have primary or attending physician, the medical psychologist shall not treat the patient.

Proposed law replaces physician with primary care provider, as defined in proposed law.

Present law provides that a medical psychologist may obtain a certificate of advanced practice if the medical psychologist is in compliance with licensing requirement of present law. Proposed law maintains the requirements of present law, but removes references to medical psychologists that obtained a license before Jan. 1, 2010 in accordance with proposed law.

Present law requires that a medical psychologist holding a certificate of advanced practice shall collaborate with a patient's attending or primary physician for the provision of care. Proposed law replaces the term physician with primary care provider, as defined in proposed law.

Proposed law adds definitions.

(Amends R.S. 37:1360.55, 1360.56(A), (B), and (C), 1360.57(intro. para.), (1), (2), and (5), and 1360.62; Adds R.S. 37:1360.52 (12)-(15))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Clarify that a medical psychologist may maintain a license to practice medical psychology governed by the LSBME, maintain a license to practice psychology governed by the La. Board of Examiners of Psychologists, or both.