

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2016 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4594**

BY DELEGATES HOWELL, SPONAUGLE, CADLE, HARTMAN,  
MORGAN, BLAIR, HAMILTON AND BUTLER

[Passed on March 11, 2016; in effect ninety days from  
passage.]

1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-21-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to predoctoral psychology internship qualifications; and requiring that in order to be eligible  
 3 for a license to engage in the practice of psychology, an applicant with a doctor of  
 4 philosophy degree or its equivalent must have at least one thousand eight hundred hours  
 5 from a doctoral internship.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That §30-21-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and  
 2 reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 21. PSYCHOLOGISTS; SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

**§30-21-7. Qualifications of applicants; exceptions; applications; fee.**

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of psychology, the applicant must:

2 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;

3 (2) Be of good moral character;

4 (3) Be a holder of a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent or a master's degree in  
 5 psychology from an accredited institution of higher learning, with adequate course study at such  
 6 institution in psychology, the adequacy of any such course study to be determined by the board;

7 (4) When the degree held is a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent, at least one  
 8 thousand and eight hundred hours must be a predoctoral internship in the performance of any of  
 9 the psychological services described in subdivision (e), section two of this article, including those  
 10 activities excluded from the definition of the term "practice of psychology" in said subdivision (e),  
 11 and, when the degree held is a master's degree, have at least five years' experience subsequent  
 12 to receiving said degree in the performance of any of the psychological services described in said  
 13 subdivision (e), including those activities excluded from the definition of the term "practice of  
 14 psychology" in said subdivision (e);

15 (5) Have passed the examination prescribed by the board, which examination shall cover  
 16 the basic subject matter of psychology and psychological skills and techniques;

17 (6) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude; and

18 (7) Not, within the next preceding six months, have taken and failed to pass the  
19 examination required by subdivision (5), subsection (a) of this section.

20 (b) The following persons shall be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of  
21 psychology without examination:

22 (1) Any applicant who holds a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent from an  
23 institution of higher learning, with adequate course study at such institution in psychology and  
24 who is a diplomate of the "American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology"; and

25 (2) Any person who holds a license or certificate to engage in the practice of psychology  
26 issued by any other state, the requirements for which license or certificate are found by the board  
27 to be at least as great as those provided in this article.

28 (c) Any person who is engaged in the practice of psychology in this state, or is engaged  
29 in any of the activities described in subdivision (e), (1), (2) or (3), section two of this article, in this  
30 state, on the effective date of this article and has been so engaged for a period of two consecutive  
31 years immediately prior thereto shall be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of  
32 psychology without examination and without meeting the requirements of subdivision (4),  
33 subsection (a) of this section, if application for such license is made within six months after the  
34 effective date of this article and if such person meets the requirements of subdivisions (1), (2), (3)  
35 and (6), subsection (a) of this section: *Provided*, That an equivalent of a master's degree in  
36 psychology may be considered by the board, only for the purpose of this subsection (c), as  
37 meeting the requirements of subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section.

38 (d) Any applicant for any such license shall submit an application therefor at such time  
39 (subject to the time limitation set forth in subsection (c) of this section), in such manner, on such  
40 forms and containing such information as the board may from time to time by reasonable rule and  
41 regulation prescribe, and pay to the board an application fee.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make a requirement that to be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of psychology, an applicant with a doctor of philosophy degree or its equivalent must have at least one thousand eight hundred hours from a doctoral internship.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.