

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-138

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly

A Bill

JMB/jta
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative L. Johnson

Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION OF THE PRACTICE OF
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY FROM TECHNICIANS EMPLOYED BY
PSYCHOLOGISTS; TO ALLOW PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS TO BE
EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION OF THE PRACTICE
OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY FROM TECHNICIANS
EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND TO ALLOW
PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS TO BE EMPLOYED BY
PSYCHOLOGISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-97-401(a) and (b), concerning
technicians employed by psychologists, are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) A technician may be employed by a licensed psychologist ~~in the
practice of neuropsychology.~~

(2)(A) An individual employed as a technician may be employed
only in ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological testing and shall be restricted to
the administration and scoring of standardized objective psychological tests.

(B) An individual employed as a technician ~~may~~ shall not
administer or score projective tests.

(b)(1) A technician shall have a bachelor's degree in psychology from

1 ~~a regionally an accredited institution, preferably with a major in~~
2 ~~psychology.~~

3 ~~(2) The basic educational background of a technician shall~~
4 ~~include passing grades from instruction in:~~

5 ~~(A) Abnormal psychology;~~

6 ~~(B) Personality;~~

7 ~~(C) Psychological statistics; and~~

8 ~~(D) Psychological testing.~~

9 ~~(3) As used in this subsection, "passing grade" means:~~

10 ~~(A) "C" in a letter grading system;~~

11 ~~(B) "Pass" in a pass/fail system; or~~

12 ~~(C) "Satisfactory" in a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading~~
13 ~~system.~~

14 ~~(4) A technician who has completed a degree with a nonpsychology~~
15 ~~major shall have completed course work with passing grades in the subject~~
16 ~~matter areas listed in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

17 ~~(5)(A)(2)(A)~~ A technician who does not have ~~this academic~~
18 ~~background and the academic background under subdivision (b)(1) of this~~
19 ~~section and who~~ is currently employed by a psychologist shall be provided
20 with specific information to supplement his or her training in
21 ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological test administration.

22 (B) ~~Any~~ A technician employed by a psychologist ~~in the~~
23 ~~future shall be required to~~ shall meet the academic background specified in
24 this section.

25
26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-97-402(a), concerning additional
27 training for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (a) The supervising psychologist shall make the technician aware:

30 (1) Of the goals of ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological examination
31 and his or her specific role in achieving those goals;

32 (2) Through additional training, if necessary, of appropriate
33 institutional emergency procedures to deal with various medical emergencies
34 such as heart attack, respiratory arrest, and seizures and of other relevant
35 information; and

36 (3) In addition to medical emergencies, of recommended

1 procedures for dealing with incompetent or adjudicated patients who attempt
2 to leave the testing setting without authorization.

3
4 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-97-402(g)(1), concerning additional
5 training for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 (g)(1) The supervising psychologist shall ensure that each technician
8 employed by the psychologist has an explicit understanding of the limited
9 nature of the technician's role in ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological
10 examination.

11
12 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405(a)(1), concerning the supervision
13 of technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

14 (a)(1) An acceptable employment setting for a technician ~~provides~~
15 shall provide ongoing ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological services or scientific
16 research in a well-defined and established program.

17
18 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405(c), concerning the supervision of
19 technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

20 (c) The setting shall include a licensed, Arkansas Psychology Board-
21 approved psychologist who is legally and ethically responsible for the
22 oversight of the integrity and quality of the services as well as other
23 resources necessary to meet the employment needs of the technician whose
24 technical assistance is restricted to the practice of ~~neuropsychology~~
25 psychology and research.

26
27 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-97-406(a), concerning the qualifications
28 of supervisors for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (a) A supervising psychologist shall be:

- 31 (1) Licensed to practice psychology in Arkansas;
- 32 (2) Aware of and abide by the ethical principles and state
33 statutes pertaining to the practice of psychology in general and to
34 supervision in particular; and
- 35 (3) Approved by the Arkansas Psychology Board to practice
36 ~~neuropsychology~~ psychology.

1
2 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-97-406(d)(1), concerning the
3 qualifications of supervisors for technicians employed by psychologists, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (d)(1) A supervising psychologist shall have adequate training,
6 knowledge, and skill to render competently any ~~neuropsychological~~
7 psychological service ~~which~~ that the employed technician undertakes.

8
9 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 97, Subchapter 4, is
10 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

11 17-97-407. Reimbursement – Definition.

12 (a) As used in this section, “health benefit plan” means a plan,
13 policy, contract, certificate, agreement, or other evidence of coverage for
14 healthcare services offered or issued by a healthcare insurer in this state.

15 (b) A technician shall be reimbursed for the administration and
16 scoring of psychological testing by:

17 (1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program; or

18 (2) A health benefit plan.

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21 Referred by Representative L. Johnson

22 Prepared by: JMB/JMB

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