

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1257

5 By: Representative L. Johnson
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

15 TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION OF THE PRACTICE
16 OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY FROM TECHNICIANS
17 EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND TO ALLOW
18 PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS TO BE EMPLOYED BY
19 PSYCHOLOGISTS.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-97-401(a) and (b), concerning
25 technicians employed by psychologists, are amended to read as follows:

26 (a)(1) A technician may be employed by a licensed psychologist ~~in the~~
27 ~~practice of neuropsychology or a healthcare facility.~~

28 (2)(A) An individual employed as a technician ~~may be employed~~
29 ~~only in neuropsychological testing and shall be restricted to the~~
30 ~~administration and scoring of standardized objective tests shall only~~
31 practice under the supervision of a licensed psychologist in the following
32 areas:

33 (i) Administration and scoring of standardized
34 objective psychological tests with specific predetermined and manualized
35 procedures; and

36 (ii) Manualized cognitive intervention services.



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

- 3 (i) Select tests;
4 (ii) Conduct intake assessments;
5 (iii) Conduct clinical interviews including without
6 limitation patient interviews and collateral interviews of relatives, friends
7 of the patient, or other professionals associated with the patient;
8 (iv) Interpret patient data;
9 (v) Communicate test results or treatment
10 recommendations to patients; or
11 (vi) Administer tests in educational institutions.

12 (b)(1) A technician shall have a bachelor's degree from ~~a regionally~~
13 ~~an~~ accredited institution, preferably with a major in psychology approved by
14 the Arkansas Psychology Board.

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

- 17 ~~(A) Abnormal psychology;~~
18 ~~(B) Personality;~~
19 ~~(C) Psychological statistics; and~~
20 ~~(D) Psychological testing.~~

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

- 22 ~~(A) "C" in a letter grading system;~~
23 ~~(B) "Pass" in a pass/fail system; or~~
24 ~~(C) "Satisfactory" in a satisfactory/unsatisfactory~~
25 ~~grading system.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3)(2) In addition to medical emergencies, of recommended procedures for dealing with incompetent or adjudicated patients who attempt to leave the testing setting without authorization.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-97-402(d), concerning additional training of a technician employed by a psychologist, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(4) The supervising psychologist shall provide eighty (80) hours of documented training in the following areas:

(A) A minimum of four (4) hours of professional ethics, confidentiality, mandatory reporting, best practices in objective test administration, and scoring;

(B) A minimum of sixteen (16) hours in the study of test manuals;

(C) A minimum of twenty (20) hours of direct observation of test administration and scoring by a licensed psychologist; and

(D) A minimum of forty (40) hours of administering and scoring tests under the direct supervision of a licensed psychologist.

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

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

1 examination.

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3 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405(a)(1), concerning the supervision
4 of technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

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

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9 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405(c), concerning the supervision of
10 technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

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

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18 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405, concerning the supervision of
19 technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to add an additional
20 subsection to read as follows:

21 (g) A supervising psychologist shall not supervise more than four (4)
22 full-time technicians at one (1) time.

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24 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 17-97-406(a), concerning the qualifications
25 of supervisors for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read
26 as follows:

27 (a) A supervising psychologist shall be:

28 (1) Licensed to practice psychology in Arkansas;

29 (2) Aware of and abide by the ethical principles and state
30 statutes pertaining to the practice of psychology in general and to
31 supervision in particular; and

32 (3) Approved by the Arkansas Psychology Board to practice
33 ~~neuropsychology~~ psychology.

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35 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 17-97-406(d)(1), concerning the
36 qualifications of supervisors for technicians employed by psychologists, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (d)(1) A supervising psychologist shall ~~have adequate training,~~
 3 ~~knowledge, and skill to render competently any neuropsychological service~~
 4 which be licensed to practice psychological assessment services in the areas
 5 in which the employed technician undertakes.

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

9 17-97-407. Reimbursement – Definition.

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

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

- 15 (1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program; or
- 16 (2) A health benefit plan.

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