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OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1976



# ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 942

(By Mrs. Withrow & Mr. Dinsmore)



PASSED March 17, 1976

In Effect ninety days from Passage



FILED IN THE OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA

THIS DATE 4/1/76

*942*

**ENROLLED**

**H. B. 942**

(By MRS. WITHROW and MR. DINSMORE)

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[Passed March 17, 1976; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section seven, article twenty-one, chapter thirty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to reducing experience requirements for eligibility for licenses to engage in practice of psychology.

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

That section seven, article twenty-one, chapter thirty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 21. PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

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

- 1 (a) To be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of
- 2 psychology, the applicant must:
  - 3 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;
  - 4 (2) Be of good moral character;
  - 5 (3) Be a holder of a doctor of philosophy degree or its equiv-
  - 6 alent or a master's degree in psychology from an accredited in-
  - 7 stitution of higher learning, with adequate course study at
  - 8 such institution in psychology, the adequacy of any such course
  - 9 study to be determined by the board;
  - 10 (4) When the degree held is a doctor of philosophy degree

11 or its equivalent, have at least one year's experience subse-  
12 quent to receiving said degree in the performance of any of  
13 the psychological services described in subdivision (e), sec-  
14 tion two of this article, including those activities excluded from  
15 the definition of the term "practice of psychology" in said  
16 subdivision (e), and, when the degree held is a master's degree,  
17 have at least five years' experience subsequent to receiving  
18 said degree in the performance of any of the psychological  
19 services described in said subdivision (e), including those ac-  
20 tivities excluded from the definition of the term "practice of  
21 psychology" in said subdivision (e);

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

25 (6) Not have been convicted of a felony or crime involv-  
26 ing moral turpitude; and

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

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

32 (1) Any applicant who holds a doctor of philosophy de-  
33 gree or its equivalent from an institution of higher learning,  
34 with adequate course study at such institution in psychology  
35 and who is a diplomate of the "American Board of Examiners  
36 in Professional Psychology"; and

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

41 (c) Any person who is engaged in the practice of psychology  
42 in this state, or is engaged in any of the activities described in  
43 subdivision (e), (1), (2) or (3), section two of this article, in  
44 this state, on the effective date of this article and has been  
45 so engaged for a period of two consecutive years immediately  
46 prior thereto shall be eligible for a license to engage in the  
47 practice of psychology without examination and without meet-

48 ing the requirements of subdivision (4), subsection (a) of this  
49 section, if application for such license is made within six  
50 months after the effective date of this article and if such  
51 person meets the requirements of subdivisions (1), (2), (3) and  
52 (6), subsection (a) of this section: *Provided*, That an equiva-  
53 lent of a master's degree in psychology may be considered by  
54 the board, only for the purpose of this subsection (c), as  
55 meeting the requirements of subdivision (3) of subsection (a)  
56 of this section.

57 (d) Any applicant for any such license shall submit an ap-  
58 plication therefor at such time (subject to the time limitation  
59 set forth in subsection (c) of this section), in such manner, on  
60 such forms and containing such information as the board may  
61 from time to time by reasonable rule and regulation prescribe,  
62 and pay to the board an application fee of fifty dollars, not  
63 refundable.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

James L. Davis  
Chairman Senate Committee

Charles C. Chute, Jr.  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

John D. Sullivan, Jr.  
Clerk of the Senate

Charles Blankenship  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

H. H. Roberts  
President of the Senate

Louis F. W. Morris  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 31<sup>st</sup>  
day of March, 1976.

Andrew H. Rose, Jr.  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNOR

Date 3/25/76

Time 2:00 p.m.