

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2580

By: Jones

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to professions and occupations; amending 59 O.S. 2001, Section 1362, which relates to the Psychologists Licensing Act; modifying doctoral degree requirement for applicants for licensure; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2001, Section 1362, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1362. An applicant is qualified to take the examination to be licensed when the applicant has met the following criteria:

1. Applicants for licensure shall possess a doctoral degree in psychology from an institution of higher education. The degree shall be obtained from a recognized program of graduate study in psychology as defined by the rules ~~and regulations~~ of the Board. By January 1, 1997, applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the program shall be deemed a recognized program of graduate study in psychology. In areas where no accreditation exists, applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that meets recognized acceptable professional standards as determined by the Board. When a new specialty of professional psychology is recognized as being within the accreditation scope of the APA, doctoral programs within that specialty will be afforded a transition period of eight (8) years from their first class of students to the time of their

accreditation. During that transition period, graduates of such programs may sit for licensure examination whether or not the program has been accredited. This also applies to new doctoral programs of specialties previously recognized within the scope of APA accreditation. Applicants trained in institutions outside the United States shall meet requirements established by the Board.

2. For admission to the licensure examination, applicants shall demonstrate that they have completed two (2) years of supervised professional experience, one (1) year of which shall be postdoctoral. In accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board, applicants may be allowed to sit for examination during the applicant's second year of experience. The criteria for appropriate supervision shall be in accordance with regulations which shall be promulgated by the Board. Postdoctoral experience shall be compatible with the knowledge and skills acquired during formal doctoral or postdoctoral education in accordance with professional requirements and relevant to the intended area of practice.

3. Applicants shall be required to show evidence of good character; that is, that they have not been convicted of a criminal offense that bears directly on the fitness of the individual to be licensed.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

50-2-8543            KB            01/16/06