


MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 24, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Jason Glasspiegel Central Services Coordinator
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #5(b)(2)(B) – AB 1456 (Low) Professional Licensure

Background:

Existing law prohibits the licensure requirements for professional personnel, including psychologists, marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors, in the state and other governmental health facilities licensed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) or Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), or operated by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) or California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from being less than for those professional personnel in health facilities under private ownership. These departments can waive that requirement for persons in the profession of psychology who are gaining qualifying experience for licensure in that profession, but prohibits the waiver from exceeding three (3) years from the date the employment commences with CDPH, DHCS, DSH or CDCR licensed/operated facility.

As of the June 5 amendments, this bill would extend the exemption waivers to five (5) at CDPH, DHCS, DSH or CDCR licensed/operated facilities. Board staff believes it is good policy to bring conformity to the various licensure exemption provisions as this would diminish confusion for both exempt setting employers and their employees, and the public.

At the June Board meeting, the Board took a Support position on AB 1456 (Low).

Location: Governor

Status: 7/21/2017 Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

Votes: 7/17/2017 Assembly Floor (Concurrence) (76-0-3)
 7/10/2017 Senate Floor (40-0-0)
 6/28/2017 Senate Committee on Health (7-0-2)
 5/4/2017 Assembly Floor (74-0-6)
 4/18/2017 Assembly Committee on Health (15-0-0)

Action Requested:

This item is for informational purposes only. No action is required at this time.

Attachment A: AB 1456 (Low) Support Letter to Governor
Attachment B: AB 1456 (Low) Text

July 20, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1456 (Low) – Professional Licensure – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Board of Psychology (Board) is pleased to support AB 1456 (Low) and requests that you sign AB 1456 when it reaches your desk.

Existing law prohibits the licensure requirements for professional personnel, including psychologists, marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors, in the state and other governmental health facilities licensed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) or Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), or operated by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) or California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from being less than for those professional personnel in health facilities under private ownership. These departments can waive that requirement for persons in the profession of psychology who are gaining qualifying experience towards licensure, but these waivers vary from three (3) to five (5) years depending on the type of exempt setting in which the individual is employed or contracted. This bill would instead make the maximum licensure exemption for all exempt settings (5) years.

The Board believes that it is good policy to bring conformity to the various licensure exemption provisions as this would diminish confusion for both exempt setting employers and their employees, and the public.

For this reason, the Board asks that you sign AB 1456. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board's Executive Officer, Antonette Sorrick, at (916) 574-7113. Thank you.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN C. PHILLIPS, JD, PsyD
President, Board of Psychology

cc: Assembly Member Low
Camille Wagner, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor

[Home](#)[Bill Information](#)[California Law](#)[Publications](#)[Other Resources](#)[My Subscriptions](#)[My Favorites](#)**AB-1456 Professional licensure.** (2017-2018)**SECTION 1.** Section 1277 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1277. (a) No license shall be issued by the ~~state~~ department unless it finds that the premises, the management, the bylaws, rules and regulations, the equipment, the staffing, both professional and nonprofessional, and the standards of care and services are adequate and appropriate, and that the health facility is operated in the manner required by this chapter and by the rules and regulations adopted hereunder.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of Part 2 (commencing with Section 5600) of Division 5 of, or Division 7 (commencing with Section 7100) of, the Welfare and Institutions Code or any other law to the contrary, except Sections 2072 and 2073 of the Business and Professions Code, the licensure requirements for professional personnel, including, but not limited to, physicians and surgeons, dentists, podiatrists, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, pharmacists, registered nurses, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors in the state and other governmental health facilities licensed by the ~~state~~ department shall not be less than for those professional personnel in health facilities under private ownership.

(2) Persons employed as psychologists and clinical social workers, while continuing in their employment in the same class as of January 1, 1979, in the same state or other governmental health facility licensed by the ~~state~~ department, including those persons on authorized leave, but not including intermittent personnel, shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (1).

(3) The requirements of paragraph (1) may be waived by the ~~state~~ department solely for persons in the professions of psychology, marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, or professional clinical counseling who are gaining qualifying experience for licensure in such profession in this state. A waiver granted pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed ~~three years from the date the employment commences in this state in the case of psychologists, or~~ four years from commencement of the employment in this ~~state in the case of marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors,~~ *state*, at which time licensure shall have been obtained or the employment shall be terminated, except that an extension of a waiver of licensure ~~for marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors~~ may be granted for one additional year, based on extenuating circumstances determined by the ~~state~~ department pursuant to subdivision (e). For persons employed as psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, or professional clinical counselors less than full time, an extension of a waiver of licensure may be granted for additional years proportional to the extent of part-time employment, as long as the person is employed without interruption in service, but in no case shall the waiver of licensure exceed six years in the case of clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, or professional clinical counselors, or five years in the case of psychologists.

(4) The durational limitation upon waivers pursuant to paragraph (3) shall not apply to any of the following:

(A) Active candidates for a doctoral degree in social work, social welfare, or social science, who are enrolled at an accredited university, college, or professional school, but these limitations shall apply following completion of this training.

(B) Active candidates for a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy who are enrolled at a school, college, or university, specified in subdivision (b) of Section 4980.36 of, or subdivision (b) of Section 4980.37 of, the Business and Professions Code, but the limitations shall apply following completion of the training.

(C) Active candidates for a doctoral degree in professional clinical counseling who are enrolled at a school, college, or university, specified in subdivision (b) of Section 4999.32 of, or subdivision (b) of Section 4999.33 of, the Business and Professions Code, but the limitations shall apply following the completion of the training.

(5) A waiver pursuant to paragraph (3) shall be granted only to the extent necessary to qualify for licensure, except that personnel recruited for employment from outside this state and whose experience is sufficient to gain

admission to a licensing examination shall nevertheless have one year from the date of their employment in California to become licensed, at which time licensure shall have been obtained or the employment shall be terminated, provided that the employee shall take the licensure examination at the earliest possible date after the date of his or her ~~employment, and if~~ *employment. If* the employee does not pass the examination at that time, he or she shall have a second opportunity to pass the next possible examination, subject to the one-year ~~limit for marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors, and subject to a two-year limit for psychologists.~~ *limit.*

(c) A special permit shall be issued by the ~~state~~ department when it finds that the staff, both professional and nonprofessional, and the standards of care and services are adequate and appropriate, and that the special services unit is operated in the manner required in this chapter and by the rules and regulations adopted hereunder.

(d) The ~~state~~ department shall apply the same standards to state and other governmental health facilities that it licenses as it applies to health facilities in private ownership, including standards specifying the level of training and supervision of all unlicensed practitioners. Except for psychologists, the department may grant an extension of a waiver of licensure for personnel recruited from outside this state for one additional year, based upon extenuating circumstances as determined by the department pursuant to subdivision (e).

(e) The department shall grant a request for an extension of a waiver based on extenuating circumstances, pursuant to subdivision (b) or (d), if any of the following circumstances exist:

(1) The person requesting the extension has experienced a recent catastrophic event ~~which~~ *that* may impair the person's ability to qualify for and pass the license examination. Those events may include, but are not limited to, significant hardship caused by a natural disaster, serious and prolonged illness of the person, serious and prolonged illness or death of a child, spouse, or parent, or other stressful circumstances.

(2) The person requesting the extension has difficulty speaking or writing the English language, or other cultural and ethnic factors exist ~~which~~ *that* substantially impair the person's ability to qualify for and pass the license examination.

(3) The person requesting the extension has experienced other personal hardship ~~which~~ *that* the department, in its discretion, determines to warrant the extension.

SEC. 2. Section 5068.5 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

5068.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, except as provided in subdivisions (b) and (c), any person employed or under contract to provide diagnostic, treatment, or other mental health services in the state or to supervise or provide consultation on these services in the state correctional system shall be a physician and surgeon, a psychologist, or other health professional, licensed to practice in this state.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 5068 or Section 704 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the following persons are exempt from the requirements of subdivision (a), so long as they continue in employment in the same class and in the same department:

(1) Persons employed on January 1, 1985, as psychologists to provide diagnostic or treatment ~~services~~ *services*, including those persons on authorized ~~leave~~ *leave*, but not including intermittent personnel.

(2) Persons employed on January 1, 1989, to supervise or provide consultation on the diagnostic or treatment ~~services~~ *services*, including persons on authorized ~~leave~~ *leave*, but not including intermittent personnel.

(c) (1) The requirements of subdivision (a) may be waived by the secretary solely for persons in the professions of psychology or clinical social work who are gaining qualifying experience for licensure in those professions in this state. Providers working in a licensed health care facility operated by the department ~~must~~ *shall* receive a waiver in accordance with Section 1277 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) A waiver granted pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed ~~three years from the date the employment commences in this state in the case of psychologists, or~~ four years from commencement of the employment in this ~~state in the case of clinical social workers,~~ *state*, at which time licensure shall have been obtained or the employment shall be terminated, except that an extension of a waiver of licensure ~~for clinical social workers~~ may be granted for one additional year, based on extenuating circumstances determined by the department pursuant to subdivision (d). For persons employed as psychologists or clinical social workers less than full time, an extension of a waiver of licensure may be granted for additional years proportional to the extent of part-time employment, as long as the person is employed without interruption in service, but in no case shall the waiver of licensure exceed six years in the case of clinical social workers or five years in the case of psychologists.

However, this durational limitation upon waivers shall not apply to active candidates for a doctoral degree in social work, social welfare, or social science who are enrolled at an accredited university, college, or professional school, but these limitations shall apply following completion of that training.

(3) A waiver pursuant to this subdivision shall be granted only to the extent necessary to qualify for licensure, except that personnel recruited for employment from outside this state and whose experience is sufficient to gain admission to a licensure examination shall nevertheless have one year from the date of their employment in California to become licensed, at which time licensure shall have been obtained or the employment shall be terminated, provided that the employee shall take the licensure examination at the earliest possible date after the date of his or her employment, and if the employee does not pass the examination at that time, he or she shall have a second opportunity to pass the next possible examination, subject to the one-year ~~limit for clinical social workers, and subject to a two-year limit for psychologists.~~ *limit.*

(d) The department shall grant a request for an extension of a waiver of licensure ~~for a clinical social worker~~ pursuant to subdivision (c) based on extenuating circumstances if any of the following circumstances exist:

(1) The person requesting the extension has experienced a recent catastrophic event that may impair the person's ability to qualify for and pass the licensure examination. Those events may include, but are not limited to, significant hardship caused by a natural disaster; serious and prolonged illness of the person; serious and prolonged illness or death of a child, spouse, or parent; or other stressful circumstances.

(2) The person requesting the extension has difficulty speaking or writing the English language, or other cultural and ethnic factors exist ~~which~~ *that* substantially impair the person's ability to qualify for and pass the license examination.

(3) The person requesting the extension has experienced other personal hardship that the department, in its discretion, determines to warrant the extension.

SEC. 3. Section 5751.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5751.2. (a) Except as provided in this section, persons employed or under contract to provide mental health services pursuant to this ~~part~~ *part, or pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 14680) of Chapter 8.8 of, or Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700) of, Part 3 of Division 9,* shall be subject to all applicable requirements of law regarding professional licensure, and no person shall be employed in local mental health programs pursuant to this part to provide services for which a license is required, unless the person possesses a valid license.

(b) Persons employed as psychologists and clinical social workers, while continuing in their employment in the same class as of January 1, 1979, in the same program or facility, including those persons on authorized leave, but not including intermittent personnel, shall be exempt from the requirements of subdivision (a).

(c) While registered with the licensing board of jurisdiction for the purpose of acquiring the experience required for licensure, persons employed or under contract to provide mental health services pursuant to this ~~part~~ *part, or pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 14680) of Chapter 8.8 of, or Chapter 8.9 (Commencing with Section 14700) of, Part 3 of Division 9,* as clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, or professional clinical counselors shall be exempt from subdivision (a). Registration shall be subject to regulations adopted by the appropriate licensing board.

(d) The requirements of subdivision (a) shall be waived by the State Department of Health Care Services for persons employed or under contract to provide mental health services *as psychologists* pursuant to this ~~part as psychologists~~ *part, or pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 14680) of Chapter 8.8 of, or Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700) of, Part 3 of Division 9,* who are gaining the experience required for licensure. A waiver granted under this subdivision ~~may shall~~ not exceed five years from the date of employment by, or contract with, a local mental health program for persons in the profession of psychology.

(e) The requirements of subdivision (a) shall be waived by the State Department of Health Care Services for persons ~~who have been recruited for employment from outside this state~~ *employed or under contract to provide mental health services* as psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, or professional clinical counselors *pursuant to this part, or pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 14680) of Chapter 8.8 of, or Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700) of, Part 3 of Division 9, who have been recruited for employment from outside this state* and whose experience is sufficient to gain admission to a licensing examination. A waiver granted under this subdivision ~~may shall~~ not exceed ~~three~~ *five* years from the date of employment by, or contract with, a local mental health program for persons in these four professions who are recruited from outside this state.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department, without taking any further regulatory action, shall implement, interpret, or make specific this section by means of information notices, plan or provider bulletins, or similar instructions until the time that regulations are adopted.

(2) The department shall adopt regulations on or before December 31, 2020, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 4. *This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

To allow specific types of mental health providers who are at risk of being unable to work without extended license waivers to continue to provide critical mental health services within this state, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.