Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S2/27/03 S3/17/03 S3/20/03 S3/31/03
2	84th General Assembly A B1II
3	Regular Session, 2003SENATE BILL133
4	
5	By: Senators Steele, Altes, Madison, Whitaker
6	By: Representatives Bradford, Mahony, Judy, Wood, Lendall, Martin, Penix
7	
8	
9	For An Act To Be Entitled
10	AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS
11	CODE TITLE 17, CHAPTER 97, RELATING TO
12	PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS; AND
13	FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14	
15	Subtitle
16	AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE
17	ARKANSAS CODE, RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGIST
18	AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS.
19	
20	
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22	
23	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-97-102 is amended to read as follows:
24	17-97-102. Definitions <u>- Levels of practice of psychology</u> .
25	(a)(1) "Practice of psychology" means the observation, description,
26	evaluation, interpretation, or modification of human behavior by a person who
27	holds an advanced graduate degree in psychology and is trained in the
28	application of psychological principles, methods, or procedures, for one (1)
29	or more of the following purposes:
30	(A) Preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive, or
31	undesired behavior;
32	(B) Enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life
33	adjustment, personal effectiveness, behavioral health and mental health; and
34	(C) Consultation, teaching, and research.
35	(2) "Practice of psychology" includes, but is not limited to:
36	(A) Testing and measuring, which consists of the



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1	administration and interpretation of tests measuring personal
2	characteristics, such as intelligence, personality, abilities, interests,
3	aptitudes, achievements, motives, personality dynamics, psychoeducational
4	processes, neuropsychological brain functioning, and other psychological
5	<u>attributes of individuals or groups;</u>
6	(B)(i) Diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional
7	disorders, which consists of the appropriate diagnosis of mental disorders,
8	behavior disorders, and brain dysfunctions, according to standards of the
9	profession and the ordering or providing of treatments according to need.
10	(ii) Treatment includes, but is not limited to,
11	providing:
12	<u>(a) Counseling;</u>
13	(b) Psychotherapy;
14	(c) Marital and family therapy;
15	(d) Group therapy;
16	(e) Behavior therapy;
17	(f) Psychoanalysis;
18	<u>(g)</u> Hypnosis;
19	(h) Biofeedback;
20	(i) Other psychological interventions that aim
21	to modify and adjust perceptions, habits, or conduct; and
22	(j) The psychological aspects of physical
23	illness, pain, injury, or disability; and
24	(C) Psychological consulting, which consists of:
25	(i) Interpreting or reporting on scientific theory
26	<u>or research in psychology;</u>
27	(ii) Rendering expert psychological opinion or
28	clinical psychological opinion;
29	(iii) Evaluating and engaging in applied
30	psychological research;
31	(iv) Program or organizational development; and
32	(v) Administration, supervision, and evaluation of
33	psychological services.
34	(3)(A) The practice of psychology may be rendered to
35	individuals, families, groups, organizations, institutions and the public.
36	(B) The practice of psychology may be rendered whether or

1 not payment is received for services rendered. 2 (a) (b) Unless the context otherwise requires, two (2) levels of 3 psychological practice are defined for the purpose of this chapter. The 4 levels are to be known and are referred to as "psychological examiner" and 5 "psychologist": 6 (1)(A) A person practices as a "psychological examiner" within 7 the meaning of this chapter when he or she holds himself or herself out to be 8 a psychological examiner or renders to individuals or to the public for 9 remuneration any service involving the application of recognized principles, methods, and procedures of the science and profession of psychology the 10 11 practice of psychology. 12 (B) Psychological examiners independently provide services 13 such as interviewing or administering and interpreting tests of mental abilities, aptitudes, interests, and personality characteristics for the 14 15 purposes of psychological evaluation to assist in the determination of 16 educational or vocational selection, guidance, or placement. 17 (C) The psychological examiner practices the following only under the supervision of a qualified psychologist: 18 19 (i) Overall personality appraisal, including 20 projective and objective testing classification of mental health disorders; 21 (ii) Personality counseling; 22 (iii) Psychotherapy; 23 (iv) Neuropsychological evaluation; or 24 (v) Personality readjustment techniques; and 25 (C) Other than those psychological services listed in 26 subdivision (b)(1)(B) of this section, the psychological examiner provides psychological services only under the supervision of a qualified 27 28 psychologist. 29 (2) A person practices as a "psychologist" within the meaning of 30 this chapter when he or she holds himself or herself out to be a psychologist or renders to individuals or to the public for remuneration any service 31 32 involving the application of recognized principles, methods, and procedures 33 of the science and profession of psychology, such as interviewing or 34 administering and interpreting tests of mental abilities, aptitudes, 35 interests, and personality characteristics for such purposes as psychological evaluation or for educational or vocational selection, guidance, or 36

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1	placement, or for such purposes as overall personality appraisal or
2	classification, personality counseling, psychotherapy, personality
3	readjustment, or neuropsychological evaluation the practice of psychology.
4	<del>(b)(e)</del> Nothing in these definitions shall be construed as permitting
5	the use of those forms of psychotherapy which involve the administration or
6	prescription of drugs or electroshock or in any way infringing upon the
7	practice of medicine as defined in the laws of this state. The psychologist
8	or psychological examiner who engages in psychotherapy must establish and
9	maintain effective intercommunication with a qualified psychiatrist to make
10	provision for the diagnosis and treatment of medical problems by a physician
11	licensed under the laws of Arkansas. A psychologist or psychological
12	examiner must not attempt to diagnose, prescribe for, treat, or advise a
13	client with reference to problems or complaints falling outside the
14	boundaries of psychological practice. Nothing in this section shall be
15	construed as permitting the practice of psychology to infringe on the
16	practice of medicine as defined by the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-
17	<u>95-201 et seq.</u>
18	
19	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-97-103 is amended to read as follows:
20	17-97-103. Exceptions generally.
21	(a) <u>(1)</u> Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the
22	professional pursuits of teachers and counselors in recognized public and
23	private schools, clergymen, practitioners of medicine, or social workers from
24	full performance of their professional duties. However, in such a
25	performance, any title used must be in accord with § 17-97-307. Nothing in
26	this chapter prevents the teaching of psychology, or the conduct of
27	psychological research, if the teaching or research does not involve the
28	delivery or supervision of direct psychological services to individuals who
29	are themselves, rather than a third party, the intended beneficiaries of the
30	services without regard to the source or extent of payment for services
31	rendered.
32	(2) Nothing in this chapter prevents the provision of expert
33	testimony by psychologists who are exempted by this chapter.
34	(3) Persons holding an earned doctoral degree in psychology from
35	an institution of higher education may use the title "Psychologist" in
36	conjunction with the activities permitted in this subsection.

1	(b) Students of psychology, psychological interns, and other persons
2	preparing for the profession of psychological examiner or psychologist may
3	perform as a part of their training the functions specified in § 17-97-102,
4	but only under qualified supervision. Nothing in this chapter prevents
5	members of other professions licensed under the laws of Arkansas from
6	rendering services within the scope of practice as set out in the statutes
7	regulating their professional practices, if they do not represent themselves
8	to be psychologists or psychological examiners, or their services to be
9	psychological services.
10	(c) Use of psychological techniques by government institutions,
11	businesses, and industrial organizations for employment purposes, evaluation,
12	promotion, or job adjustment of their own officers or employees or by
13	employment agencies for the evaluation of their own elients prior to
14	recommendation for employment is also specifically allowed. However, no
15	industrial or business firm or corporation may sell or offer to the public or
16	to other firms or corporations for remuneration any psychological services as
17	specified in § 17-97-102, unless the services are performed or supervised by
18	individuals duly and appropriately licensed under this chapter. Nothing in
19	this chapter prevents recognized members of the clergy from functioning in
20	their ministerial capacities, if they do not represent themselves to be
21	psychologists or psychological examiners, or their services to be
22	psychological services.
23	
24	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-97-104 is repealed.
25	17-97-104. Exceptions Certain employees of state agencies.
26	(a) State agencies and institutions may continue to employ state
27	employees not licensed under this chapter who, as of July 1, 1979, have been
28	continuously employed by their present agencies for a period of more than
29	seven (7) years, whose primary job descriptions are that of psychological
30	service providers, who have master's degrees from accredited colleges, and
31	who are within twelve (12) years and six (6) months of meeting the minimum
32	requirement for full retirement under the Social Security Act.
33	(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other law,
34	the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, commonly known as the
35	University of Arkansas Medical Center, may continue to employ individuals who
36	have been employed by it continuously for at least three (3) years and who

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1	are not licensed under this chapter to perform psychological services,
2	provided that the services are performed under the immediate supervision of a
3	licensed psychologist employed by the center.
4	(c) It is the purpose and intent of this section to require all
5	psychological service providers, except as specifically otherwise provided in
6	this section, to conform to the licensing requirements of this chapter and
7	thereby to protect the public's health and welfare by ensuring competence in
8	the delivery of those services.
9	
10	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-97-201(a), concerning creation and
11	membership of the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology, is amended to
12	read as follows:
13	(a)(l) There is created the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology
14	<u>Arkansas Psychology Board</u> , which shall consist of <del>eight (8)</del> <u>nine (9)</u> members
15	who shall be appointed by the Governor for terms of five (5) years.
16	(2) The Governor shall appoint:
17	(A) <del>Two (2) academic psychologists</del> <u>One (1) academic</u>
18	psychologist engaged in full-time teaching, except that when a vacancy arises
19	in an academic psychologist position after March 1, 1995, that academic
20	psychologist position is abolished, and thereafter, an additional
21	psychological examiner engaged in the full-time practice of psychology shall
22	be appointed to the board of psychology at the graduate level at an approved
23	institute of higher learning or holding an active faculty appointment in an
24	American Psychological Association approved pre or post doctoral internship
25	program;
26	(B) <u>(i)</u> Three (3) Four (4) practicing psychologists engaged
27	in the full-time practice of psychology with at least one (1) psychologist
28	engaged in the full-time, private practice of psychology.
29	(ii) The Governor shall ensure that the psychologist
30	members reflect a diversity of practice specialties, including but not be
31	limited to, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, health psychology,
32	neuropsychology, and school psychology;
33	(C) <del>One (1) psychological examiner</del> <u>Two (2) psychological</u>
34	examiners engaged in the full-time practice of psychology, except that, as
35	provided in subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section, when a vacancy arises in
36	an academic psychologist position after March 1, 1995, that academic

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1 psychologist position is abolished, and thereafter, an additional 2 psychological examiner engaged in the full-time practice of psychology shall 3 be appointed to the board, and from then on, two (2) psychological examiners 4 shall serve on the board; and 5 (D) Two (2) persons who are not actively engaged in or 6 retired from the practice of psychology who shall be voting members at-large. 7 (3)(A)(i) The academic *psychologists* psychologist, and the 8 practicing psychologists, and psychological examiners shall be appointed from 9 a list of nominees provided by the Arkansas Psychological Association, the 10 Arkansas Association of Psychological Examiners, and or from any other list 11 which has attached thereto the signatures of at least twenty (20) licensed 12 psychologists or psychological examiners attached. (ii) The psychological examiner members shall be 13 appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the Arkansas 14 15 Association of Masters in Psychology or from a list that has the signatures 16 of at least twenty (20) licensed psychological examiners attached. 17 (B)(i) Each nomination shall be transmitted to the 18 Governor within twenty (20) days after a vacancy occurs. 19 (ii) The Governor may disregard the nominees whose 20 names were not transmitted prior to the expiration of the twenty-day period. 21 (C)(i) Of the two (2) members appointed pursuant to 22 subdivision (a)(2)(D) of this section, one (1) member shall represent 23 consumers, and one (1) member shall be sixty (60) years of age or older and 24 shall represent the elderly. 25 (ii) Both shall be appointed from the state at 26 large, subject to confirmation by the Senate. 27 (iii) The two (2) positions may not be held by the 28 same person. 29 (iv) Both shall be full voting members but shall not 30 participate in the vote on or participate in the administration or grading of examinations of applicants for licensure. 31 32 (D)(i) Any public member appointed under subdivision 33 (a)(2)(D) of this section after July 28, 1995, must be an Arkansas resident 34 and must have resided in Arkansas for at least five (5) years immediately 35 preceding appointment. 36 (ii) Furthermore, the person must never have been a

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psychologist or psychological examiner, an applicant or former applicant for licensure as a psychologist or psychological examiner, a member of another mental health profession, a member of a household that includes a psychologist or psychological examiner, or otherwise have conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts with his or her duties as a board member.

7 (4)(A) Each psychologist and psychological examiner appointed to 8 the board after July 28, 1995, must reside within the State of Arkansas, hold 9 a current valid license to practice, and must have been licensed to practice 10 psychology in Arkansas for at least five (5) years immediately preceding his 11 or her appointment to the board.

12 (B) At the time of appointment, each such member must be
13 free of any conflict of interest and the appearance of any conflict with his
14 or her duties as a member of the board.

15 (C) To the extent possible, psychologists and
psychological examiner board members shall be members or fellows of state or
national professional organizations, such as the Arkansas Psychological
Association, the Arkansas Association of Masters in Psychology, or the
American Psychological Association.

(5)(A) The Governor shall fill all vacancies on the board within 20 21 thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs. The Arkansas Psychological 22 Association, the Arkansas Association of Psychological Examiners, and other 23 interested licensed psychologists and psychological examiners shall transmit 24 their nominees to the Governor no later than forty (40) days prior to the 25 expiration of board members' terms, and, at least thirty (30) days before the 26 expiration of the term of any board member, the Governor shall appoint the 27 person to replace the board member when the term expires.

(B) The Governor may disregard the nominees of any
association which fails to transmit the names of the nominees at least forty
(40) days prior to the expiration of the term of office.

31		<u>(C)</u>	The Gov	rernor	shall	remove	any	member	from	the	board	if
32	he or she:											
33			<u>(i)</u> (	leases	to be	qualif	ied;					
34			<u>(ii)</u>	Fails	to att	tend the	ree	(3) succ	cessiv	ve bo	oard	
35	meetings without	just	cause as	deter	rmined	by the	boar	rd;				
36			(iii)	Is fo	ound to	o be in	vio	lation d	of thi	is cl	hapter	:

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1	(iv) Pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or is
2	found guilty of a felony or an unlawful act involving moral turpitude by a
3	court of competent jurisdiction; or
4	(v) Pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or is found
5	guilty of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in relation to his or her
6	board duties by a court of competent jurisdiction.
7	
8	SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-97-202(a), concerning the organization
9	and proceedings of the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology is amended
10	to read as follows:
11	(a) The <del>Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology</del> <u>Arkansas Psychology</u>
12	Board shall meet and organize by electing a chair, secretary, and treasurer.
13	
14	SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-97-203 is amended to read as follows:
15	17-97-203. Powers and duties.
16	The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board
17	shall:
18	(1) Be empowered to hire <del>such</del> assistants as <del>are</del> necessary to carry on
19	its activities, within the limits of funds available to the board;
20	(2) Be empowered to accept grants from foundations or institutions;
21	(3) From time to time adopt <del>such</del> rules and regulations <u>that comply</u>
22	with national guidelines and standards as it may deem necessary for the
23	performance of its duties;
24	(4) Examine and pass upon the qualifications of the applicants for the
25	practice of psychology as provided; and
26	(5) Adopt a code of ethics of the American Psychological Association
27	to govern appropriate practices or behavior as referred to herein and file
28	the code with the Secretary of State within thirty (30) days prior to the
29	effective date of the code of ethics.
30	
31	SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-97-204(a), concerning collection
32	and disposition of fees by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology, is
33	amended to read as follows:
34	(a) The <del>Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology</del> <u>Arkansas Psychology</u>
35	Board is authorized to establish and collect various fees and penalties for
36	services related to provision of temporary permits, printed materials,

1 handling returned checks, costs incurred in processing delinquent payments, 2 and other reasonable services as may be determined by the board. 3 4 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 17-97-302(a), concerning applications and 5 qualifications of psychologists, is amended to read as follows: 6 (a) Any person wishing to obtain the right to practice as a 7 psychologist in this state who has not heretofore been licensed to do so 8 shall make application to the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology 9 Arkansas Psychology Board through the Chair of the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board in a form and in a manner 10 11 as shall be adopted and prescribed by the board and obtain from the board a 12 license to do so. 13 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 17-97-302, concerning applications and 14 15 qualifications of psychologists, is amended to add an additional subsection 16 to read as follows: 17 (c) Notwithstanding requirements for licensure as outlined in this chapter, the board shall issue a senior psychologist license to an applicant 18 19 who has: (1) At least twenty (20) years of licensure to practice 20 psychology in a state of the United States or in Canada if that license was 21 22 based on a doctoral degree; 23 (2) Received no disciplinary sanction during the entire period 24 of licensure; 25 (3) Passed the Arkansas complementary examination; and 26 (4) Tendered the appropriate application and fees as required under this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board. 27 28 29 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 17-97-303 is amended to read as follows: 30 17-97-303. Psychological examiners - Application - Qualifications. 31 (a) Any person wishing to obtain the right to practice as a 32 psychological examiner who has not heretofore been licensed to do so shall 33 make application to the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology Arkansas 34 Psychology Board through the chair of the Arkansas Board of Examiners in 35 Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board upon a form and in the manner as shall 36 be adopted and prescribed by the board and shall obtain from the board a

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1 license to do so. 2 (b)(1) A candidate for a license shall furnish the board with 3 satisfactory evidence that he or she: 4 (A) Is of good moral character; 5 (B) Has a master's degree in psychology or a closely 6 related field from an accredited educational institution recognized by the 7 board as maintaining satisfactory standards; 8 (C) Is competent as a psychological examiner as shown by 9 passing examinations, written or oral, or both, as the board deems necessary; Is not considered by the board to be engaged in 10 (D) 11 unethical practice; 12 (E) Has applied for a criminal background check and has not been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any of the 13 14 offenses listed in § 17-97-312(f); and 15 (F) Has not failed an examination given by the board 16 within the preceding six (6) months. 17 (2) At its discretion, the board may accept satisfactory substitute training and experience in lieu of that prescribed in subdivision 18 19 (b)(1) of this section. 20 (c) The board shall apply through its rules and regulations the qualifications of supervising psychologists and the restrictions and 21 22 reporting requirements of supervision so as to implement the intent of this 23 chapter without restricting the professional integrity of the psychological 24 examiner and psychologist or the ultimate responsibility of the supervising 25 psychologist. 26 27 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 17-97-304(a)(1), concerning examinations 28 by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology, is amended to read as follows: 29 30 (a)(1) Examination of applicants for a license to practice as a 31 psychologist or as a psychological examiner shall be made by the Arkansas 32 Board of Examiners in Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board at least once a 33 year according to methods and in such subject fields as may be deemed by the 34 board to be the most practical and expeditious to test the applicant's 35 qualifications. 36

1	SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 17-97-305(a), concerning issuance of
2	licenses to practice psychology, is amended to read as follows:
3	(a) LICENSE TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY. The Arkansas Board of Examiners in
4	<del>Psychology</del> <u>Arkansas Psychology Board</u> shall be the sole agency empowered to
5	examine candidates concerning competence in the practice of psychology and to
6	grant license for the practice of psychology at the appropriate level. The
7	license shall be signed by the Chair of the A <del>rkansas Board of Examiners in</del>
8	<del>Psychology</del> Arkansas Psychology Board and attested by the Secretary of the
9	Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board under the
10	seal of the board, whereupon a proper license shall be issued in accordance
11	with this chapter.
12	
13	SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 17-97-306 is amended to read as follows:
14	17-97-306. Reciprocity.
15	At its discretion, the A <del>rkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology</del>
16	<u>Arkansas Psychology Board</u> may grant a certificate without an assembled
17	examination to any person residing or employed in the state who at the time
18	of application is licensed or certified by a similar board of another state
19	whose standards, in the opinion of the board, are not lower than those
20	required by this chapter or who has been practicing psychology in another
21	state and has qualifications not lower than those required by this chapter
22	and is able to satisfy the board that to grant him or her a license would be
23	in the public interest.
24	
25	SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 17-97-308(a), concerning annual
26	registration and failure to reregister licenses to practice psychology, is
27	amended to read as follows:
28	(a) The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology shall have authority
29	to Arkansas Psychology Board may adopt and enforce rules and regulations
30	requiring every person having a license to practice to pay an annual
31	registration fee in a sum to be fixed by the board.
32	
33	SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 17-97-309, concerning fees charged by the
34	Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology, is amended to read as follows:
35	(a) <u>(l)</u> There shall be paid to the Chair of the <del>Arkansas Board of</del>
36	<del>Examiners in Psychology</del> <u>Arkansas Psychology Board</u> by each applicant for a

1 permanent license an application fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).

2 (2) An additional fee to be determined by the Arkansas Board of 3 Examiners in Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board, but in no event to exceed 4 the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100), shall be paid as deemed necessary to 5 defray the cost of acquiring and administering the examination test and 6 related expenses in connection therewith.

8 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 17-97-310(a), concerning various actions 9 of the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology in regard to licensure, is 10 amended to read as follows:

(a) The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology Arkansas Psychology Board may refuse to grant a certificate or may suspend or revoke any license for a period to be determined by the board, may impose a fine of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000), may issue a letter of reprimand, and may require additional hours of education of a licensee on the following grounds:

16 (1) The employment of fraud or deception in applying for a
17 license or in passing the examination provided for in this chapter;

18 (2) The practice of psychology under a false or assumed name or
19 the impersonation of another practitioner of a like or different name;

20 (3) Habitual intemperance in the use of ardent spirits,
21 narcotics, or stimulants to such an extent as to incapacitate the licensee or
22 applicant for the performance of his or her duties;

 23
 (4) Violation of the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, §§ 17-95 

 24
 201 - 17-95-207, 17-95-301 - 17-95-305, and 17-95-401 - 17-95-411;

25 (5) Practice of a level of psychology inappropriate to the
26 particular license held by the licentiate;

27 (6) Upon recommendation of the ethics committee of the Arkansas
28 Psychological Association or of the American Psychological Association;

29 (7) Negligence or wrongful actions in the performance of his or 30 her duties; or

31 (8) A violation of any rule or regulation of this board or the
32 rules of ethics as adopted by this board.

33

7

34 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code 17-97-311(a), concerning investigative 35 proceedings by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology, is amended to 36 read as follows:

1	(a)(1)(A) The Arkansas Psychology Board may investigate or cause to be
2	investigated any allegation or evidence that appears to show that a person:
3	(i) Is practicing psychology without a license; or
4	(ii) A person licensed to practice in Arkansas, and
5	anyone under his or her supervision is, or may be, in violation of this
6	chapter or of any of the rules and regulations adopted by the board.
7	(B) The board shall adopt rules to ensure that:
8	(i) Any individual selected by the board to conduct
9	an investigation does not have a conflict of interest that would disqualify
10	the individual from being an impartial investigator in the matter being
11	investigated; and
12	(ii) Any investigation of a respondent in an
13	investigated matter involves the input of an advisor who possesses
14	qualification, experience, or both, substantially comparable to or greater
15	than that of the investigated respondent.
16	<u>(2)</u> The <del>Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology</del> <u>board</u> may not
17	recommend suspension, revocation, or any other penalty described in § 17-97-
18	310 affecting a certificate or license or refuse to issue or to renew any
19	certificate for any cause listed in this chapter unless the person accused
20	has been given at least twenty (20) days' notice in writing by registered
21	mail, with return receipt demanded, of the charges against the person and an
22	opportunity for a public hearing by the board.
23	$\frac{(2)}{(3)}$ The written notice shall be mailed to the person's last
24	known address, but the nonappearance of the person shall not prevent such a
25	hearing.
26	
27	SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 17-97-312(a), concerning criminal
28	background checks for the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology, is
29	amended to read as follows:
30	(a) Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas
31	<del>Board of Examiners in Psychology</del> <u>Arkansas Psychology Board</u> shall be required
32	to apply to the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State
33	Police for a state and national criminal background check to be conducted by
34	the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
35	
36	/s/ Steele