



Date: March 8, 2021
To: Rep. Rena Moran, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
From: Sam Sands, Executive Director Minnesota Board of Psychology

Re: House File 269

Introduction:

I write on behalf of the Minnesota Board of Psychology (“Board”) as its Executive Director commenting on HF269 – also known as PSYPACT. The [mission](#) of the Board is to protect the public through licensure, regulation, and education to promote access to safe, competent, and ethical psychological services.

Initial Comments:

The Board supports HF269. It provides additional access to competent, vetted psychologists. It increases access to psychological services in traditionally underserved groups and areas. It allows the Board to regulate the practice of psychology in Minnesota in a manner that upholds the Board’s public protection mission.

Fiscal Impact to the Agency:

The Board identified two fiscal impacts. First, the required payment to the Commission to be a member of PSYPACT. The Board can absorb the fiscal impact of membership fees. Second, the Board would absorb the cost for a .5FTE Office and Administrative Specialist position to complete any work necessary on behalf the board to participate in the Compact. This is an existing position that was funded during the 2017 biennium legislative session, prior to my start as the Executive Director. From 2014 to 2017 complaints investigated by the Board rose significantly. It is my understanding that the Board requested this position in response to rising case volume. The caseload leveled off in 2017, and has since reduced to some degree, leaving the position unfilled to this point while we evaluate the long-term trends in complaints the Board receives on an annual basis. Since the Board already had a position appropriated, it decided that it could absorb the cost related to any work associated with joining and participating in the Compact within its operating budget.

Conclusion:

The Board supports HF269 and asks that the Committee advance the bill, and I will be available during the hearing to answer any questions members may have for me.

Thank you,

Sam Sands
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