



Date: March 12, 2021
To: Rep. Tina Lieblich, Chair House Health Finance & Policy Division
From: Sam Sands, Executive Director Minnesota Board of Psychology

Re: House File 970

Introduction:

I write on behalf of the Minnesota Board of Psychology (“Board”) as its Executive Director commenting on HF970 with the proposed HF970-A1 Author’s Amendment. 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 of Psychology would welcome further vetting of the agency-related proposals in section 15 of the bill from a regulatory perspective and to identify unintended consequences. At a minimum, the Board requests language pre-determining an outcome of the work group be removed from section 15 of the bill.

Agency Policy Concerns

Section 15 – The Board has concerns about the language in Section 15 of the bill. Some progress has been made, including the feasibility language in today’s amendment. However, the language presumes the answer that it asks the work group to explore. It presupposes that an alternative pathway to licensure should be proposed and tasks the work group with offering which types of alternative pathways the legislature should adopt. There is no data related to testing that warrants starting from the premise that there needs to be an alternative to testing. Should the data analysis from the work group bear out a disparity, then such recommendations may be reasonable.

Representations have been made that the outcome of the work group is not pre-determined. The Board is concerned that they will not be able to comply with the legislative mandate to recommend alternative pathways to licensure, if the data does not in fact support such a pathway. The examination is one of three ways the Board evaluates applicants – the other two being education and experience.

The data presented in past committees identifying large swaths of graduates who are license eligible who do not go on to get licensed is unreliable data with respect to psychology programs. The APA-accredited graduate programs track how many of their graduates get licensed. Provided below are snap-shots of the passage rates for programs that provide education that is accepted by the board for licensure as a psychologist. When aggregated these programs graduated 227 people eligible for licensure over a ten year period. Of those 227 graduates, 190 of them reported being licensed either here in or in another state. **We can presume they passed the national licensing examination – the EPPP – because no other state licenses psychologists without passing that examination.** The licensure rate of almost 84%. Some graduates, especially in the Ph.D programs may not actually seek licensure as their focus is to go into teaching in psychology graduate programs – which does not require licensure. Therefore, the rate of licensure may indeed be higher when excluding those who do not seek licensure as an outcome of their graduate training. It should be noted that I was not able to find passage rates for the now defunct Argosy University Psy.D. program.

Conclusion:

Board members and staff value partnerships and commit to continued work with all stakeholders to ensure diversity in the workforce, while licensing qualified, professional, ethical, and competent psychologists.

Thank you,

Sam Sands
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Minnesota Board of Psychology
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University of St. Thomas Data:

<https://www.stthomas.edu/media/graduateschoolofprofessionalpsychology/Student-Admissions,-Outcomes-and-Other-Data.pdf>

Licensure

Outcome	2010-2020
The total number of program graduates (doctoral degrees conferred on transcript) between 2 and 10 years ago	109
The number of these graduates (between 2 and 10 years ago) who became licensed psychologists in the past 10 years	101
Licensure percentage	93%

University of Minnesota Data (two programs):

Links: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_dj1jHqZfZ3Sm1NWE5fMXZXRdG/view
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JiTFPoaN802RA7bmHBTHgXqv11ZHgQU5/view>

Licensure

Outcome	2010-2020
The total number of program graduates (doctoral degrees conferred on transcript) between 2 and 10 years ago	59
The number of these graduates (between 2 and 10 years ago) who became licensed psychologists in the past 10 years	43
Licensure percentage	73%

Note: Not all students that graduate from this program pursue positions that require licensure.

Data is based on Collected Numbers as of 07/27/2020

5) Licensure

Outcome	2008 – 2018
The total number of program graduates (doctoral degrees conferred on transcript) between 2 and 10 years ago	34
The number of these graduates (between 2 and 10 years ago) who became licensed psychologists in the past 10 years	29
Licensure percentage	85%

University of St. Mary's Data:

https://www.smumn.edu/Resources/pdf/SGPP/PsyD_Admissions_Data.pdf

Licensure

Outcome	2009-2019
The total number of program graduates (doctoral degrees conferred on transcript) between 2 and 10 years ago	25
The number of these graduates (between 2 and 10 years ago) who became licensed psychologists in the past 10 years	17
Licensure percentage	68%

The Psy.D. in Counseling Psychology program at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Accreditation information can be obtained from:

Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association
750 First Street
NE Washington,
D.C. 20002-4242
Phone: 202-336-5979
TDD/TTY: 202-336-6123

