

By: Simmons, Gonzales

H.B. No. 2703

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of the Texas Board of Behavior
3 Analyst Examiners and the requirement to obtain a license to
4 practice as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst;
5 imposing fees; providing an administrative penalty.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Subtitle I, Title 3, Occupations Code, is
8 amended by adding Chapter 506 to read as follows:

9 CHAPTER 506. BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS

10 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

11 Sec. 506.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as
12 the Behavior Analyst Licensing Act.

13 Sec. 506.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

14 (1) "Behavior analyst board" means the Texas Board of
15 Behavior Analyst Examiners.

16 (2) "Certifying entity" means the nationally
17 accredited Behavior Analyst Certification Board or another entity
18 that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying
19 Agencies or the American National Standards Institute to issue
20 credentials in the professional practice of applied behavior
21 analysis and approved by the behavior analyst board.

22 (3) "Executive director" means the executive director
23 of the medical board.

24 (4) "License holder" means a person licensed under

1 this chapter.

2 (5) "Licensed assistant behavior analyst" means a
3 person who is certified by the certifying entity as a Board
4 Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst or who has an equivalent
5 certification issued by the certifying entity and who meets the
6 requirements specified by Sections 506.252 and 506.254.

7 (6) "Licensed behavior analyst" means a person who is
8 certified by the certifying entity as a Board Certified Behavior
9 Analyst or Board Certified Behavior Analyst--Doctoral or who has an
10 equivalent certification issued by the certifying entity and who
11 meets the requirements specified by Sections 506.252 and 506.253.

12 (7) "Medical board" means the Texas Medical Board.

13 (8) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice
14 medicine by the medical board.

15 Sec. 506.003. PRACTICE OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS. (a)
16 The practice of applied behavior analysis is the design,
17 implementation, and evaluation of instructional and environmental
18 modifications to produce socially significant improvements in
19 human behavior.

20 (b) The practice of applied behavior analysis includes the
21 empirical identification of functional relations between behavior
22 and environmental factors, known as functional assessment or
23 functional analysis.

24 (c) Applied behavior analysis interventions:

25 (1) are based on scientific research and the direct
26 observation and measurement of behavior and environment; and

27 (2) use contextual factors, motivating operations,

1 antecedent stimuli, positive reinforcement, and other procedures
2 to help individuals develop new behaviors, increase or decrease
3 existing behaviors, and elicit or evoke behaviors under specific
4 environmental conditions.

5 (d) The practice of applied behavior analysis does not
6 include:

7 (1) psychological testing, psychotherapy, cognitive
8 therapy, cognitive rehabilitation, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy,
9 or counseling as treatment modalities; or

10 (2) the diagnosis of disorders.

11 SUBCHAPTER B. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER; USE OF TITLE

12 Sec. 506.051. LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS. This chapter does
13 not apply to a person licensed to practice psychology in this state
14 if the applied behavior analysis services provided are within the
15 scope of the licensed psychologist's education, training, and
16 competence.

17 Sec. 506.052. OTHER LICENSED PROFESSIONALS. This chapter
18 does not apply to a person licensed to practice another profession
19 in this state if the applied behavior analysis services provided
20 are within:

21 (1) the scope of practice of the person's license under
22 state law; and

23 (2) the scope of the person's education, training, and
24 competence.

25 Sec. 506.053. FAMILY MEMBERS AND GUARDIANS. This chapter
26 does not apply to a family member or guardian of a recipient of
27 applied behavior analysis services who is implementing a behavior

1 analysis treatment plan for the recipient under the extended
2 authority and direction of a licensed behavior analyst or licensed
3 assistant behavior analyst.

4 Sec. 506.054. PARAPROFESSIONALS. This chapter does not
5 apply to a paraprofessional technician who delivers applied
6 behavior analysis services if:

7 (1) the applied behavior analysis services are
8 provided under the extended authority and direction of a licensed
9 behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst; and

10 (2) the person is designated as an "applied behavior
11 analysis technician," "behavior technician," "tutor," or
12 "front-line therapist."

13 Sec. 506.055. STUDENTS, INTERNS, AND FELLOWS. This chapter
14 does not apply to an applied behavior analysis activity or service
15 of a college or university student, intern, or fellow if:

16 (1) the activity or service is part of a defined
17 behavior analysis program of study, course, practicum, internship,
18 or postdoctoral fellowship;

19 (2) the activity or service is directly supervised by
20 a licensed behavior analyst or an instructor in a course sequence
21 approved by the certifying entity; and

22 (3) the person is designated as a "student," "intern,"
23 "fellow," or "trainee."

24 Sec. 506.056. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE. This chapter does
25 not apply to an unlicensed person pursuing supervised experience in
26 applied behavior analysis if the supervised experience is
27 consistent with the requirements of the certifying entity and

1 behavior analyst board rules.

2 Sec. 506.057. TEMPORARY SERVICES OF BEHAVIOR ANALYST FROM
3 ANOTHER STATE. (a) This chapter does not apply to a behavior
4 analyst licensed in another jurisdiction or certified by the
5 certifying entity if the activities and services conducted in this
6 state:

7 (1) are within the behavior analyst's customary area
8 of practice;

9 (2) are conducted not more than 20 days in a calendar
10 year; and

11 (3) are not otherwise in violation of this chapter.

12 (b) A behavior analyst described by Subsection (a) shall
13 inform the recipient of applied behavior analysis services, or a
14 parent or guardian of the recipient if the recipient is under 18
15 years of age, that:

16 (1) the behavior analyst is not licensed in this
17 state; and

18 (2) the activities and services provided by the
19 behavior analyst are time-limited.

20 Sec. 506.058. TEACHER OR EMPLOYEE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT. (a)
21 This chapter does not apply to a teacher or employee of a private or
22 public school who provides applied behavior analysis services if
23 the teacher or employee is performing duties within the scope of the
24 teacher's or employee's employment.

25 (b) A person described by Subsection (a) may not:

26 (1) represent that the person is a behavior analyst,
27 unless the applied behavior analysis services provided are within

1 the person's education, training, and competence;

2 (2) offer applied behavior analysis services to any
3 person, other than within the scope of the person's employment
4 duties for the school; or

5 (3) receive compensation for providing applied
6 behavior analysis services, other than the compensation that the
7 person receives from the person's school employer.

8 Sec. 506.059. USE OF TITLE "BEHAVIOR ANALYST." (a) This
9 chapter does not apply to a person described by Subsection (b).

10 (b) A person may use the title "behavior analyst" if the
11 person:

12 (1) is a behavior analyst who practices with
13 nonhumans, including an applied animal behaviorist or an animal
14 trainer;

15 (2) teaches behavior analysis or conducts behavior
16 analytic research if the teaching or research activities do not
17 involve the delivery or supervision of applied behavior analysis
18 services; or

19 (3) is a professional who provides general applied
20 behavior analysis services to organizations if those services:

21 (A) are for the benefit of the organization; and

22 (B) do not involve direct services to
23 individuals.

24 SUBCHAPTER C. TEXAS BOARD OF BEHAVIOR ANALYST EXAMINERS

25 Sec. 506.101. BOARD MEMBERSHIP. (a) The behavior analyst
26 board is composed of nine members appointed by the governor with the
27 advice and consent of the senate as follows:

1 (1) four licensed behavior analysts, at least one of
2 whom must be certified as a Board Certified Behavior
3 Analyst--Doctoral, or hold an equivalent certification issued by
4 the certifying entity;

5 (2) one licensed assistant behavior analyst;

6 (3) one physician who has experience providing mental
7 health or behavioral health services; and

8 (4) three members who represent the public and who are
9 either former recipients of applied behavior analysis services or
10 the parent or guardian of a current or former recipient of applied
11 behavior analysis services.

12 (b) To be qualified for appointment under Subsection
13 (a)(1), a person must have at least five years of experience as a
14 licensed behavior analyst after being certified by the certifying
15 entity.

16 (c) Appointments to the behavior analyst board shall be made
17 without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age,
18 or national origin of the appointee.

19 Sec. 506.102. ELIGIBILITY OF PUBLIC MEMBERS. A person is
20 not eligible for appointment as a public member of the behavior
21 analyst board if:

22 (1) the person is registered, certified, or licensed
23 by an occupational regulatory agency in the field of mental health;

24 (2) the person's spouse is registered, certified, or
25 licensed by an occupational regulatory agency in the field of
26 mental health; or

27 (3) the person or the person's spouse:

1 (A) is employed by or participates in the
2 management of a business entity or other organization receiving
3 funds from the medical board or the behavior analyst board;

4 (B) owns or controls, directly or indirectly,
5 more than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other
6 organization receiving funds from the medical board or the behavior
7 analyst board; or

8 (C) uses or receives a substantial amount of
9 funds from the medical board or the behavior analyst board, other
10 than compensation or reimbursement authorized by law for medical
11 board or behavior analyst board membership, attendance, or
12 expenses.

13 Sec. 506.103. MEMBERSHIP AND EMPLOYEE RESTRICTIONS. (a)
14 In this section, "Texas trade association" means a cooperative and
15 voluntarily joined statewide association of business or
16 professional competitors in this state designed to assist its
17 members and its industry or profession in dealing with mutual
18 business or professional problems and in promoting their common
19 interest.

20 (b) A person may not be a member of the behavior analyst
21 board and may not be an employee of the medical board or the
22 behavior analyst board employed in a "bona fide executive,
23 administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used
24 for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime
25 provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29
26 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.) if:

27 (1) the person is an officer, employee, manager, or

1 paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of mental
2 health; or

3 (2) the person's spouse is an officer, employee,
4 manager, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the
5 field of mental health.

6 (c) A person may not be a member of the behavior analyst
7 board or act as general counsel to the medical board or the behavior
8 analyst board if the person is required to register as a lobbyist
9 under Chapter 305, Government Code, because of the person's
10 activities for compensation on behalf of a profession related to
11 the operation of the behavior analyst board.

12 Sec. 506.104. TERMS; VACANCY. (a) Members of the behavior
13 analyst board serve staggered six-year terms, with the terms of
14 three members expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

15 (b) A member may not serve more than two consecutive
16 six-year terms.

17 (c) If a vacancy occurs during a member's term, the governor
18 shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term.

19 (d) A member shall serve until a successor is appointed and
20 assumes office.

21 Sec. 506.105. OFFICERS. At the meeting of the behavior
22 analyst board held on the date closest to August 31 of each year,
23 the behavior analyst board shall elect from its members a presiding
24 officer, a secretary, and any other officers required to conduct
25 the business of the behavior analyst board.

26 Sec. 506.106. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL. (a) It is a ground for
27 removal from the behavior analyst board that a member:

1 (1) does not have at the time of taking office the
2 qualifications required by Section 506.101;

3 (2) does not maintain during service on the behavior
4 analyst board the qualifications required by Section 506.101;

5 (3) is ineligible for membership under Sections
6 506.102 or 506.103;

7 (4) cannot, because of illness or disability, complete
8 the member's duties for a substantial part of the member's term; or

9 (5) is absent from more than half of the regularly
10 scheduled behavior analyst board meetings that the member is
11 eligible to attend during a calendar year without an excuse
12 approved by a majority vote of the behavior analyst board.

13 (b) The validity of an action of the behavior analyst board
14 is not affected by the fact that the action is taken when a ground
15 for removal of a member exists.

16 (c) If the executive director has knowledge that a potential
17 ground for removal exists, the executive director shall notify the
18 presiding officer of the behavior analyst board of the potential
19 ground. The presiding officer shall then notify the governor and
20 the attorney general that a potential ground for removal exists. If
21 the potential ground for removal involves the presiding officer,
22 the executive director shall notify the next highest ranking
23 officer of the behavior analyst board, who shall then notify the
24 governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for
25 removal exists.

26 Sec. 506.107. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. (a) A
27 behavior analyst board member may not receive compensation for the

1 member's services. A member is entitled to a per diem and travel
2 allowance for each day the member engages in behavior analyst board
3 business at the rate set for state employees in the General
4 Appropriations Act.

5 (b) The per diem and travel allowance authorized by this
6 section may be paid only from fees collected under this chapter.

7 Sec. 506.108. MEETINGS. (a) The behavior analyst board
8 shall meet at least twice each year.

9 (b) The behavior analyst board may meet at other times at
10 the call of the presiding officer or a majority of the members.

11 Sec. 506.109. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS. (a) A person
12 who is appointed to and qualifies for office as a member of the
13 behavior analyst board may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a
14 member in attendance at a meeting of the behavior analyst board
15 until the person completes a training program that complies with
16 this section.

17 (b) The training program must provide the person with
18 information regarding:

19 (1) this chapter and the programs, functions, rules,
20 and budget of the behavior analyst board;

21 (2) the results of the most recent formal audit of the
22 behavior analyst board;

23 (3) the requirements of laws relating to open
24 meetings, public information, administrative procedure, and
25 conflicts of interest; and

26 (4) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the
27 behavior analyst board or the Texas Ethics Commission.

1 (c) A person appointed to the behavior analyst board is
2 entitled to reimbursement, as provided by the General
3 Appropriations Act, for the travel expenses incurred in attending
4 the training program regardless of whether the attendance at the
5 program occurs before or after the person qualifies for office.

6 Sec. 506.110. CIVIL LIABILITY. A member of the behavior
7 analyst board is not liable in a civil action for an act performed
8 in good faith while performing duties as a member.

9 SUBCHAPTER D. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BEHAVIOR ANALYST BOARD AND
10 MEDICAL BOARD

11 Sec. 506.151. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF BEHAVIOR ANALYST
12 BOARD. (a) Subject to the advice and approval of the medical
13 board, the behavior analyst board shall:

14 (1) adopt rules consistent with this chapter to carry
15 out the behavior analyst board's duties in administering this
16 chapter; and

17 (2) establish standards of conduct and adopt a code of
18 professional ethics for license holders.

19 (b) The behavior analyst board shall:

20 (1) administer and enforce this chapter;

21 (2) determine the qualifications and fitness of each
22 applicant for a license, license renewal, or temporary license and
23 review and approve or reject each application for the issuance or
24 renewal of a license;

25 (3) issue each license;

26 (4) deny, suspend, or revoke a license or otherwise
27 discipline a license holder; and

1 (5) ensure strict compliance with and enforcement of
2 this chapter.

3 Sec. 506.152. ASSISTANCE BY MEDICAL BOARD. (a) The medical
4 board shall provide administrative and clerical employees as
5 necessary to enable the behavior analyst board to administer this
6 chapter.

7 (b) Subject to the advice and approval of the medical board,
8 the behavior analyst board shall develop and implement policies
9 that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the
10 behavior analyst board and the management responsibilities of the
11 executive director and the staff of the medical board.

12 Sec. 506.153. FEES. (a) The behavior analyst board, with
13 the advice and approval of the medical board, by rule shall set fees
14 in amounts reasonable and necessary to cover the costs of
15 administering this chapter.

16 (b) Funds to administer this chapter may be appropriated
17 only from fees collected under this chapter.

18 Sec. 506.154. RULES RESTRICTING ADVERTISING OR COMPETITIVE
19 BIDDING. (a) The medical board or behavior analyst board may not
20 adopt rules restricting advertising or competitive bidding by a
21 license holder except to prohibit false, misleading, or deceptive
22 practices.

23 (b) The medical board or behavior analyst board may not
24 include in rules to prohibit false, misleading, or deceptive
25 practices by a license holder a rule that:

26 (1) restricts the license holder's use of any
27 advertising medium;

1 (2) restricts the license holder's personal appearance
2 or use of the license holder's voice in an advertisement;

3 (3) relates to the size or duration of an
4 advertisement by the license holder; or

5 (4) restricts the license holder's advertisement under
6 a trade name.

7 Sec. 506.155. RULES ON CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL
8 CONVICTION. (a) The behavior analyst board shall adopt rules
9 necessary to comply with Chapter 53.

10 (b) In the behavior analyst board's rules under this
11 section, the behavior analyst board shall list the specific
12 offenses for which a conviction would constitute grounds for the
13 behavior analyst board to take action under Section 53.021.

14 Sec. 506.156. ANNUAL REGISTRY. (a) The behavior analyst
15 board shall annually prepare a registry of all license holders.

16 (b) The behavior analyst board shall make the registry
17 available to the public, license holders, and other state agencies.

18 Sec. 506.157. BEHAVIOR ANALYST BOARD DUTIES REGARDING
19 COMPLAINTS. (a) The behavior analyst board by rule shall:

20 (1) adopt a standardized form for filing complaints
21 with the behavior analyst board; and

22 (2) prescribe information to be provided when a person
23 files a complaint with the behavior analyst board.

24 (b) The behavior analyst board shall provide reasonable
25 assistance to a person who wishes to file a complaint with the
26 behavior analyst board.

27 Sec. 506.158. USE OF TECHNOLOGY. Subject to the advice and

1 approval of the medical board, the behavior analyst board shall
2 implement a policy requiring the behavior analyst board to use
3 appropriate technological solutions to improve the behavior
4 analyst board's ability to perform the behavior analyst board's
5 functions. The policy must ensure that the public is able to
6 interact with the behavior analyst board on the Internet.

7 Sec. 506.159. NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND ALTERNATIVE
8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY. (a) Subject to the advice and approval
9 of the medical board, the behavior analyst board shall develop and
10 implement a policy to encourage the use of:

11 (1) negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter
12 2008, Government Code, for the adoption of behavior analyst board
13 rules; and

14 (2) appropriate alternative dispute resolution
15 procedures under Chapter 2009, Government Code, to assist in the
16 resolution of internal and external disputes under the behavior
17 analyst board's jurisdiction.

18 (b) The behavior analyst board's procedures relating to
19 alternative dispute resolution must conform, to the extent
20 possible, to any model guidelines issued by the State Office of
21 Administrative Hearings for the use of alternative dispute
22 resolution by state agencies.

23 (c) The behavior analyst board shall designate a trained
24 person to:

25 (1) coordinate the implementation of the policy
26 adopted under Subsection (a);

27 (2) serve as a resource for any training needed to

1 implement the procedures for negotiated rulemaking or alternative
2 dispute resolution; and

3 (3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those
4 procedures, as implemented by the behavior analyst board.

5 SUBCHAPTER E. PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION

6 AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

7 Sec. 506.201. PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION. (a) The
8 behavior analyst board shall prepare information of public interest
9 describing the functions of the behavior analyst board.

10 (b) The behavior analyst board shall make the information
11 available to the public and appropriate state agencies.

12 Sec. 506.202. COMPLAINTS. (a) The behavior analyst board
13 by rule shall establish methods by which service recipients are
14 notified of the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the
15 behavior analyst board for the purpose of directing complaints to
16 the behavior analyst board. The behavior analyst board may provide
17 for that notice:

18 (1) on each registration form, application, or written
19 contract for services of a person regulated under this chapter;

20 (2) on a sign prominently displayed in the place of
21 business of each person regulated under this chapter; or

22 (3) in a bill for services provided by a person
23 regulated under this chapter.

24 (b) The behavior analyst board shall list with its regular
25 telephone number any toll-free telephone number established under
26 other state law that may be called to present a complaint about a
27 health professional.

1 Sec. 506.203. INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLAINT ACTIONS. (a)

2 The behavior analyst board shall maintain a system to promptly and
3 efficiently act on complaints filed with the behavior analyst
4 board. The behavior analyst board shall maintain information about
5 parties to a complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a
6 summary of the results of the review or investigation of the
7 complaint, and the disposition of the complaint.

8 (b) The behavior analyst board shall make information
9 available describing its procedures for complaint investigation
10 and resolution.

11 (c) The behavior analyst board shall periodically notify
12 the complaint parties of the status of the complaint until final
13 disposition.

14 (d) The behavior analyst board shall analyze complaints
15 filed with the behavior analyst board to identify any trends or
16 issues related to certain violations, including:

- 17 (1) the reason for each complaint;
18 (2) how each complaint was resolved; and
19 (3) the subject matter of each complaint that was not
20 within the jurisdiction of the behavior analyst board and how the
21 behavior analyst board responded to the complaint.

22 Sec. 506.204. GENERAL RULES REGARDING COMPLAINT
23 INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION. The behavior analyst board shall
24 adopt rules concerning the investigation of a complaint filed with
25 the behavior analyst board. The rules must:

- 26 (1) distinguish between categories of complaints;
27 (2) ensure that a complaint is not dismissed without

1 appropriate consideration;

2 (3) require that the behavior analyst board be advised
3 of a complaint that is dismissed and that a letter or electronic
4 communication be sent to the person who filed the complaint
5 explaining the action taken on the dismissed complaint;

6 (4) ensure that the person who filed the complaint has
7 an opportunity to explain the allegations made in the complaint;
8 and

9 (5) prescribe guidelines concerning the categories of
10 complaints that require the use of a private investigator and the
11 procedures for the behavior analyst board to obtain the services of
12 a private investigator.

13 Sec. 506.205. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMPLAINT INFORMATION.

14 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a complaint and
15 investigation concerning a license holder and all information and
16 materials compiled by the behavior analyst board in connection with
17 the complaint and investigation are not subject to:

18 (1) disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code; or
19 (2) disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or other means of
20 legal compulsion for release of information to any person.

21 (b) A complaint or investigation subject to Subsection (a)
22 and all information and materials compiled by the behavior analyst
23 board in connection with the complaint, in accordance with Chapter
24 611, Health and Safety Code, may be disclosed to:

25 (1) the behavior analyst board and behavior analyst
26 board employees or agents involved in license holder discipline;

27 (2) a party to a disciplinary action against the

1 license holder or that party's designated representative;

2 (3) a law enforcement agency if required by law;

3 (4) a governmental agency if:

4 (A) the disclosure is required or permitted by
5 law; and

6 (B) the agency obtaining the disclosure protects
7 the identity of any patient whose records are examined; or

8 (5) the legislature.

9 (c) Unless good cause for delay is shown to the presiding
10 officer at the hearing, the behavior analyst board shall provide
11 the license holder with access to all information that the behavior
12 analyst board intends to offer into evidence at the hearing not
13 later than the 30th day after the date the behavior analyst board
14 receives a written request from a license holder who is entitled to
15 a hearing under this chapter or from the license holder's attorney
16 of record.

17 (d) The behavior analyst board shall protect the identity of
18 any patient whose records are examined in connection with a
19 disciplinary investigation or proceeding against a license holder,
20 except:

21 (1) a patient who initiates the disciplinary action;
22 or

23 (2) a patient who has submitted a written consent to
24 release the records.

25 Sec. 506.206. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. (a) The behavior
26 analyst board shall develop and implement policies that provide the
27 public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the behavior

1 analyst board and to speak on any issue under the behavior analyst
2 board's jurisdiction.

3 (b) The behavior analyst board shall prepare and maintain a
4 written plan that describes how a person who does not speak English
5 may be provided reasonable access to the behavior analyst board's
6 programs.

7 SUBCHAPTER F. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

8 Sec. 506.251. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) Except as provided by
9 Subchapter B, a person may not engage in the practice of applied
10 behavior analysis unless the person holds a license under this
11 chapter.

12 (b) A person may not use the title "licensed behavior
13 analyst" or "licensed assistant behavior analyst," as appropriate,
14 unless the person is licensed under this chapter.

15 (c) Except as provided by Subchapter B, a person may not use
16 the title "behavior analyst" unless the person is licensed under
17 this chapter.

18 Sec. 506.252. LICENSE APPLICATION. Each applicant for a
19 license under this chapter must submit an application and the
20 required fees to the behavior analyst board. The application must
21 include sufficient evidence, as defined by behavior analyst board
22 rules, that the applicant:

23 (1) is of good moral character; and

24 (2) has successfully completed a state-approved
25 criminal background check.

26 Sec. 506.253. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED BEHAVIOR
27 ANALYST. An applicant for a license as a licensed behavior analyst

1 must present evidence to the behavior analyst board that the
2 applicant:

3 (1) is currently certified by the certifying entity as
4 a Board Certified Behavior Analyst or a Board Certified Behavior
5 Analyst--Doctoral or an equivalent certification issued by the
6 certifying entity;

7 (2) has met the educational requirements of the Board
8 Certified Behavior Analyst standard or the Board Certified Behavior
9 Analyst--Doctoral standard or an equivalent standard adopted by the
10 certifying entity;

11 (3) has passed the Board Certified Behavior Analyst
12 examination, or an equivalent examination offered by the certifying
13 entity, in applied behavior analysis;

14 (4) is in compliance with all professional, ethical,
15 and disciplinary standards established by the certifying entity;
16 and

17 (5) is not subject to any disciplinary action by the
18 certifying entity.

19 Sec. 506.254. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED ASSISTANT BEHAVIOR
20 ANALYST. An applicant for a license as a licensed assistant
21 behavior analyst must present evidence to the behavior analyst
22 board that the applicant:

23 (1) is currently certified by the certifying entity as
24 a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst or an equivalent
25 certification issued by the certifying entity;

26 (2) has met the educational requirements of the Board
27 Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst standard or an equivalent

1 standard adopted by the certifying entity;

2 (3) has passed the Board Certified Assistant Behavior
3 Analyst examination, or an equivalent examination offered by the
4 certifying entity, in applied behavior analysis;

5 (4) is in compliance with all professional, ethical,
6 and disciplinary standards established by the certifying entity;

7 (5) is not subject to any disciplinary action by the
8 certifying entity; and

9 (6) is currently supervised by a licensed behavior
10 analyst in accordance with the requirements of the certifying
11 entity.

12 Sec. 506.255. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE. The behavior analyst
13 board shall issue a license as a licensed behavior analyst or a
14 licensed assistant behavior analyst, as appropriate, to an
15 applicant who:

16 (1) complies with the requirements of this chapter;

17 (2) meets any additional requirements the behavior
18 analyst board establishes by rule; and

19 (3) pays the required fees.

20 Sec. 506.256. TEMPORARY LICENSE. (a) The behavior analyst
21 board by rule may provide for the issuance of a temporary license.

22 (b) Rules adopted under this section must include a time
23 limit for a temporary license.

24 Sec. 506.257. RECIPROCITY. (a) The behavior analyst board
25 shall issue a license to a person who is currently licensed as a
26 behavior analyst or as an assistant behavior analyst from another
27 state or jurisdiction that imposes licensure requirements similar

1 to those specified in this chapter.

2 (b) An applicant for a reciprocal license shall:

3 (1) submit evidence to the behavior analyst board that
4 the applicant:

5 (A) is in good standing as determined by the
6 behavior analyst board;

7 (B) holds a valid license from another state or
8 jurisdiction; and

9 (C) is in compliance with other requirements
10 established by Sections 506.252, 506.253, 506.254, or 506.255, as
11 appropriate; and

12 (2) pay the required fees.

13 Sec. 506.258. INACTIVE STATUS. The behavior analyst board
14 by rule may provide for a person licensed under this chapter to be
15 placed on inactive status.

16 Sec. 506.259. RETIREMENT STATUS. The behavior analyst
17 board by rule may adopt a system for placing a person licensed under
18 this chapter on retirement status.

19 SUBCHAPTER G. LICENSE RENEWAL

20 Sec. 506.301. LICENSE EXPIRATION. (a) A license issued
21 under this chapter expires on the second anniversary of the date of
22 issuance.

23 (b) The behavior analyst board by rule may adopt a system
24 under which licenses expire on various dates during the year. For a
25 year in which the expiration date is changed, the behavior analyst
26 board shall prorate the licensing fee so that each license holder
27 pays only the portion of the fee that is allocable to the number of

1 months during which the license is valid. On renewal of the license
2 on the new expiration date, the entire licensing fee is payable.

3 Sec. 506.302. LICENSE RENEWAL. Before the expiration of a
4 license, a license may be renewed by:

- 5 (1) submitting an application for renewal;
- 6 (2) paying the renewal fee imposed by the behavior
7 analyst board; and
- 8 (3) providing verification to the behavior analyst
9 board of continued certification by the certifying entity, which
10 signifies that the applicant for renewal has met any continuing
11 education requirements established by the certifying entity.

12 SUBCHAPTER H. LICENSE DENIAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

13 Sec. 506.351. GROUNDS FOR LICENSE DENIAL AND DISCIPLINARY
14 ACTION. After a hearing, the behavior analyst board may deny a
15 license to an applicant, suspend or revoke a person's license, or
16 place on probation a license holder if the applicant or license
17 holder:

- 18 (1) violates this chapter or a behavior analyst board
19 order or rule;
- 20 (2) obtains a license by means of fraud,
21 misrepresentation, or concealment of a material fact;
- 22 (3) sells, barter, or offers to sell or barter a
23 license; or
- 24 (4) engages in unprofessional conduct that:
 - 25 (A) endangers or is likely to endanger the
26 health, welfare, or safety of the public as defined by behavior
27 analyst board rule; or

1 (B) violates the code of ethics adopted and
2 published by the behavior analyst board.

3 Sec. 506.352. PROBATION. If a license suspension is
4 probated, the behavior analyst board may require the license holder
5 to:

6 (1) report regularly to the behavior analyst board on
7 matters that are the basis of the probation;

8 (2) limit the license holder's practice to the areas
9 prescribed by the behavior analyst board; or

10 (3) continue or review continuing professional
11 education until the license holder attains a degree of skill
12 satisfactory to the behavior analyst board in those areas that are
13 the basis of the probation.

14 Sec. 506.353. INFORMAL PROCEEDINGS. (a) The behavior
15 analyst board by rule shall adopt procedures governing:

16 (1) informal disposition of a contested case under
17 Section 2001.056, Government Code; and

18 (2) an informal proceeding held in compliance with
19 Section 2001.054, Government Code.

20 (b) Rules adopted under this section must:

21 (1) provide the complainant and the license holder
22 with an opportunity to be heard; and

23 (2) require the presence of a member of the behavior
24 analyst board's or medical board's legal staff to advise the
25 behavior analyst board or medical board or the behavior analyst
26 board's or medical board's employees.

27 Sec. 506.354. HEARING. A license holder is entitled to a

1 hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings before a
2 sanction is imposed under this subchapter.

3 Sec. 506.355. SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS. (a) The behavior
4 analyst board by rule shall adopt a broad schedule of sanctions for
5 violations under this chapter.

6 (b) The State Office of Administrative Hearings shall use
7 the schedule for any sanction imposed under this chapter as the
8 result of a hearing conducted by that office.

9 Sec. 506.356. EMERGENCY SUSPENSION. (a) The behavior
10 analyst board, or a three-member committee of behavior analyst
11 board members designated by the behavior analyst board, shall
12 temporarily suspend the license of a license holder if the behavior
13 analyst board or committee determines from the evidence or
14 information presented to the behavior analyst board or committee
15 that continued practice by the license holder would constitute a
16 continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare.

17 (b) A license may be suspended under this section without
18 notice or hearing on the complaint if:

19 (1) action is taken to initiate proceedings for a
20 hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings
21 simultaneously with the temporary suspension; and

22 (2) a hearing is held as soon as practicable under this
23 chapter and Chapter 2001, Government Code.

24 (c) The State Office of Administrative Hearings shall hold a
25 preliminary hearing not later than the 14th day after the date of
26 the temporary suspension to determine if there is probable cause to
27 believe that a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare

1 still exists. A final hearing on the matter shall be held not later
2 than the 61st day after the date of the temporary suspension.

3 SUBCHAPTER I. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

4 Sec. 506.401. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The behavior analyst
5 board or the attorney general may institute a proceeding to enforce
6 this chapter, including a suit to enjoin a person from practicing
7 applied behavior analysis without complying with this chapter.

8 Sec. 506.402. MONITORING OF LICENSE HOLDER. The behavior
9 analyst board by rule shall develop a system for monitoring a
10 license holder's compliance with this chapter. The rules must
11 include procedures for:

12 (1) monitoring for compliance a license holder who is
13 ordered by the behavior analyst board to perform a certain act; and

14 (2) identifying and monitoring each license holder who
15 represents a risk to the public.

16 Sec. 506.403. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. (a) The behavior
17 analyst board may impose an administrative penalty against a person
18 licensed under this chapter who violates this chapter or a rule or
19 order adopted under this chapter.

20 (b) An administrative penalty may not exceed \$200. Each day
21 a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for the
22 purpose of imposing a penalty. The amount of the penalty shall be
23 based on:

24 (1) the seriousness of the violation, including the
25 nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of any prohibited acts,
26 and the hazard or potential hazard created to the health, safety, or
27 economic welfare of the public;

- 1 (2) the history of previous violations;
- 2 (3) the amount necessary to deter a future violation;
- 3 (4) efforts to correct the violation; and
- 4 (5) any other matter that justice requires.

5 (c) The person may stay enforcement during the time the
6 order is under judicial review if the person pays the penalty to the
7 court clerk or files a supersedeas bond with the court in the amount
8 of the penalty. A person who cannot afford to pay the penalty or
9 file the bond may stay enforcement by filing an affidavit like that
10 required by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure for a party who
11 cannot afford to file security for costs, except that the behavior
12 analyst board may contest the affidavit as provided by those rules.

13 (d) A proceeding to impose an administrative penalty is
14 subject to Chapter 2001, Government Code.

15 Sec. 506.404. CIVIL PENALTY. (a) A person found by a court
16 to have violated this chapter is liable to this state for a civil
17 penalty of \$200 for each day the violation continues.

18 (b) A civil penalty may be recovered in a suit brought by the
19 attorney general, a district attorney, or a county attorney.

20 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
21 of this Act, the governor shall appoint nine members to the Texas
22 Board of Behavior Analyst Examiners in accordance with Chapter 506,
23 Occupations Code, as added by this Act. In making the initial
24 appointments, the governor shall designate three members for terms
25 expiring February 1, 2017, three members for terms expiring
26 February 1, 2019, and three members for terms expiring February 1,
27 2021.

1 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Texas Board
2 of Behavior Analyst Examiners shall adopt the rules, procedures,
3 and fees necessary to administer Chapter 506, Occupations Code, as
4 added by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding Chapter 506, Occupations Code,
6 as added by this Act, a behavior analyst or assistant behavior
7 analyst is not required to hold a license under that chapter to
8 practice as a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant
9 behavior analyst in this state before June 1, 2016.

10 SECTION 5. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
11 section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

12 (b) Section 506.251, Occupations Code, and Subchapter H,
13 Chapter 506, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, take effect
14 June 1, 2016.