

By: Nichols, et al.

S.B. No. 611

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and to the continuation and transfer of the regulation of psychologists, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and social workers to the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council; providing civil and administrative penalties; authorizing a fee.

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

ARTICLE 1. CREATION OF THE TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECTION 1.001. Subtitle I, Title 3, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 507 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 507. TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 507.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Executive council" means the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council.

(2) "License" means a license, certification, registration, or other authorization that is issued by the executive council.

(3) "Marriage and family therapy board" means the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists.

(4) "Professional counseling board" means the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

1           (5) "Psychology board" means the Texas State Board of  
2 Examiners of Psychologists.

3           (6) "Social work board" means the Texas State Board of  
4 Social Worker Examiners.

5           Sec. 507.002. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. The Texas  
6 Behavioral Health Executive Council is subject to Chapter 325,  
7 Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence  
8 as provided by that chapter, the executive council is abolished and  
9 this chapter and Chapters 501, 502, 503, and 505 expire September 1,  
10 2031.

11           SUBCHAPTER B. TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

12           Sec. 507.051. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. (a) The Texas  
13 Behavioral Health Executive Council consists of nine members as  
14 follows:

15           (1) one marriage and family therapist member and one  
16 public member of the marriage and family therapy board, each  
17 appointed by that board;

18           (2) one licensed professional counselor member and one  
19 public member of the professional counseling board, each appointed  
20 by that board;

21           (3) one psychologist or psychological associate  
22 member and one public member of the psychology board, each  
23 appointed by that board;

24           (4) one social worker member and one public member of  
25 the social work board, each appointed by that board; and

26           (5) one public member appointed by the governor.

27           (b) Appointments to the executive council shall be made

1 without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, age, religion,  
2 or national origin of the appointee.

3 Sec. 507.052. ELIGIBILITY OF PUBLIC MEMBER APPOINTED BY  
4 GOVERNOR. A person is not eligible for appointment by the governor  
5 as a public member of the executive council if the person or the  
6 person's spouse:

7 (1) is registered, certified, or licensed by an  
8 occupational regulatory agency in the field of health care;

9 (2) is employed by or participates in the management  
10 of a business entity or other organization regulated by or  
11 receiving money from the executive council, the marriage and family  
12 therapy board, the professional counseling board, the psychology  
13 board, or the social work board;

14 (3) owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more  
15 than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other  
16 organization regulated by or receiving money from the executive  
17 council, the marriage and family therapy board, the professional  
18 counseling board, the psychology board, or the social work board;  
19 or

20 (4) uses or receives a substantial amount of tangible  
21 goods, services, or money from the executive council, the marriage  
22 and family therapy board, the professional counseling board, the  
23 psychology board, or the social work board, other than compensation  
24 or reimbursement authorized by law for executive council, marriage  
25 and family therapy board, professional counseling board,  
26 psychology board, or social work board membership, attendance, or  
27 expenses.

1       Sec. 507.053. MEMBERSHIP AND EMPLOYEE RESTRICTIONS. (a)

2 In this section, "Texas trade association" means a cooperative and  
3 voluntarily joined statewide association of business or  
4 professional competitors in this state designed to assist its  
5 members and its industry or profession in dealing with mutual  
6 business or professional problems and in promoting their common  
7 interest.

8       (b) A person may not be a member of the executive council and  
9 may not be an executive council employee employed in a "bona fide  
10 executive, administrative, or professional capacity," as that  
11 phrase is used for purposes of establishing an exemption to the  
12 overtime provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938  
13 (29 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.) if:

14           (1) the person is an officer, employee, or paid  
15 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of health care;  
16 or

17           (2) the person's spouse is an officer, manager, or paid  
18 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of health care.

19       (c) A person may not be a member of the executive council or  
20 act as the general counsel to the executive council if the person is  
21 required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government  
22 Code, because of the person's activities for compensation on behalf  
23 of a profession related to the operation of the executive council,  
24 the marriage and family therapy board, the professional counseling  
25 board, the psychology board, or the social work board.

26       Sec. 507.054. TERMS; VACANCY. (a) The member appointed by  
27 the governor serves a six-year term. The remaining members serve

1 two-year terms with the terms of four of those members expiring  
2 February 1 of each year.

3 (b) A member appointed to fill a vacancy holds office for  
4 the unexpired portion of the term.

5 Sec. 507.055. PRESIDING OFFICER. The member appointed by  
6 the governor is the presiding officer of the executive council.

7 Sec. 507.056. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL. (a) It is a ground for  
8 removal from the executive council that a member:

9 (1) does not have at the time of taking office the  
10 qualifications required by Section 507.051;

11 (2) does not maintain during service on the executive  
12 council the qualifications required by Section 507.051;

13 (3) is ineligible for membership under Section 507.052  
14 or 507.053;

15 (4) cannot, because of illness or disability,  
16 discharge the member's duties for a substantial part of the member's  
17 term; or

18 (5) is absent from more than half of the regularly  
19 scheduled executive council meetings that the member is eligible to  
20 attend during a calendar year without an excuse approved by a  
21 majority vote of the executive council.

22 (b) The validity of an action of the executive council is  
23 not affected by the fact that it is taken when a ground for removal  
24 of an executive council member exists.

25 (c) If the executive director has knowledge that a potential  
26 ground for removal exists, the executive director shall notify the  
27 presiding officer of the executive council of the potential ground.

1 The presiding officer shall then notify the appointing authority  
2 and the attorney general that a potential ground for removal  
3 exists. If the potential ground for removal involves the presiding  
4 officer, the executive director shall notify the next highest  
5 ranking officer of the executive council, who shall then notify the  
6 appointing authority and the attorney general that a potential  
7 ground for removal exists.

8 Sec. 507.057. REIMBURSEMENT. A member of the executive  
9 council may receive reimbursement for travel expenses as provided  
10 by the General Appropriations Act.

11 Sec. 507.058. MEETINGS. (a) The executive council shall  
12 hold at least two regular meetings each year.

13 (b) The executive council may hold additional meetings on  
14 the request of the presiding officer or on the written request of  
15 three members of the executive council.

16 Sec. 507.059. TRAINING. (a) A person who is appointed to  
17 and qualifies for office as a member of the executive council may  
18 not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in attendance at a  
19 meeting of the executive council until the person completes a  
20 training program that complies with this section.

21 (b) The training program must provide the person with  
22 information regarding:

23 (1) the law governing executive council operations;

24 (2) the programs, functions, rules, and budget of the  
25 executive council;

26 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking  
27 authority of the executive council;

1           (4) the results of the most recent formal audit of the  
2 executive council;

3           (5) the requirements of:

4                 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public  
5 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of  
6 interest; and

7                 (B) other laws applicable to members of the  
8 executive council in performing their duties; and

9           (6) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the  
10 executive council or the Texas Ethics Commission.

11           (c) A person appointed to the executive council is entitled  
12 to reimbursement, as provided by the General Appropriations Act,  
13 for the travel expenses incurred in attending the training program  
14 regardless of whether the attendance at the program occurs before  
15 or after the person qualifies for office.

16           (d) The executive director of the executive council shall  
17 create a training manual that includes the information required by  
18 Subsection (b). The executive director shall distribute a copy of  
19 the training manual annually to each executive council member. On  
20 receipt of the training manual, each executive council member shall  
21 sign and submit to the executive director a statement acknowledging  
22 receipt of the training manual.

23           SUBCHAPTER C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER PERSONNEL

24           Sec. 507.101. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; PERSONNEL. The executive  
25 council shall employ an executive director and other personnel as  
26 necessary to administer this chapter and carry out the functions of  
27 the executive council.

1       Sec. 507.102. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES. The executive  
2 council shall develop and implement policies that clearly separate  
3 the policymaking responsibilities of the executive council and the  
4 management responsibilities of the executive director and the staff  
5 of the executive council.

6       Sec. 507.103. CAREER LADDER PROGRAM; PERFORMANCE  
7 EVALUATIONS. (a) The executive director or the executive  
8 director's designee shall develop an intra-agency career ladder  
9 program. The program must require intra-agency posting of all  
10 nonentry level positions concurrently with any public posting.

11       (b) The executive director or the executive director's  
12 designee shall develop a system of annual performance evaluations  
13 based on measurable job tasks. All merit pay for executive council  
14 employees must be based on the system established under this  
15 subsection.

16       Sec. 507.104. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY; REPORT. (a) The  
17 executive director or the executive director's designee shall  
18 prepare and maintain a written policy statement to ensure  
19 implementation of an equal opportunity program under which all  
20 personnel transactions are made without regard to race, color,  
21 disability, sex, age, religion, or national origin. The policy  
22 statement must include:

23           (1) personnel policies, including policies relating  
24 to recruitment, evaluation, selection, appointment, training, and  
25 promotion of personnel, that are in compliance with the  
26 requirements of Chapter 21, Labor Code;

27           (2) a comprehensive analysis of the executive council



1 workforce that meets federal and state guidelines;

2 (3) procedures by which a determination can be made of  
3 significant underuse in the executive council workforce of all  
4 persons for whom federal or state guidelines encourage a more  
5 equitable balance; and

6 (4) reasonable methods to appropriately address those  
7 areas of significant underuse.

8 (b) A policy statement prepared under Subsection (a) must:

9 (1) cover an annual period;

10 (2) be updated annually;

11 (3) be reviewed by the Texas Workforce Commission for  
12 compliance with Subsection (a)(1); and

13 (4) be filed with the governor.

14 (c) The governor shall deliver a biennial report to the  
15 legislature based on information received under Subsection (b).  
16 The report may be made separately or as part of other biennial  
17 reports made to the legislature.

18 SUBCHAPTER D. POWERS AND DUTIES

19 Sec. 507.151. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The executive  
20 council shall administer and enforce this chapter and Chapters [501](#),  
21 [502](#), [503](#), and [505](#).

22 Sec. 507.152. GENERAL RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The executive  
23 council shall adopt rules as necessary to perform its duties and  
24 implement this chapter.

25 Sec. 507.153. LIMITATION REGARDING CERTAIN RULES. (a)  
26 Unless the rule has been proposed by the applicable board for the  
27 profession, the executive council may not adopt:

1           (1) a rule regarding:

2                   (A) the qualifications necessary to obtain a  
3 license, including limiting an applicant's eligibility for a  
4 license based on the applicant's criminal history;

5                   (B) the scope of practice of and standards of  
6 care and ethical practice for the profession; or

7                   (C) continuing education requirements for  
8 license holders; or

9           (2) a schedule of sanctions for violations of the laws  
10 and rules applicable to the profession.

11           (b) For each rule proposed under Subsection (a), the  
12 executive council shall either adopt the rule as proposed or return  
13 the rule to the applicable board for revision. On the return of a  
14 rule under this subsection, the executive council shall include an  
15 explanation of the executive council's reasons for not adopting the  
16 rule as proposed.

17           (c) The executive council retains authority for final  
18 adoption of all rules and is responsible for ensuring compliance  
19 with all laws regarding the rulemaking process.

20           (d) The executive council shall adopt rules prescribing the  
21 procedure by which rules described by Subsection (a) may be  
22 proposed to the executive council.

23           Sec. 507.154. FEES. The executive council shall set fees in  
24 amounts reasonable and necessary to cover the costs of  
25 administering this chapter and Chapters 501, 502, 503, and 505,  
26 including fees for:

27                   (1) licenses issued by the executive council;

- 1           (2) license renewals and late renewals;  
2           (3) examinations; and  
3           (4) any other program or activity administered by the  
4 executive council for which a fee is authorized.

5           Sec. 507.155. RULES RESTRICTING ADVERTISING OR COMPETITIVE  
6 BIDDING. (a) The executive council may not adopt rules restricting  
7 advertising or competitive bidding by a person regulated by the  
8 executive council except to prohibit false, misleading, or  
9 deceptive practices.

10           (b) The executive council may not include in rules to  
11 prohibit false, misleading, or deceptive practices by a person  
12 regulated by the executive council a rule that:

13           (1) restricts the person's use of any advertising  
14 medium;

15           (2) restricts the person's personal appearance or use  
16 of the person's voice in an advertisement;

17           (3) relates to the size or duration of an  
18 advertisement by the person; or

19           (4) restricts the use of a trade name in advertising by  
20 the person.

21           Sec. 507.156. RULES ON CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION.  
22 The executive council shall adopt rules and guidelines as necessary  
23 to comply with Chapter 53.

24           Sec. 507.157. CONTINUING EDUCATION. The executive council  
25 shall recognize, prepare, or administer continuing education  
26 programs for license holders. A license holder must participate in  
27 the programs to the extent required by the executive council to keep

1 the person's license.

2 Sec. 507.158. USE OF TECHNOLOGY. The executive council  
3 shall implement a policy requiring the executive council to use  
4 appropriate technological solutions to improve the executive  
5 council's ability to perform its functions. The policy must ensure  
6 that the public is able to interact with the executive council on  
7 the Internet.

8 Sec. 507.159. NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND ALTERNATIVE  
9 DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY. (a) The executive council shall  
10 develop a policy to encourage the use of:

11 (1) negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter  
12 2008, Government Code, for the adoption of executive council rules;  
13 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 executive  
17 council's jurisdiction.

18 (b) The executive council'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 executive council shall:

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

26 (2) provide training as needed to implement the  
27 procedures for negotiated rulemaking and alternative dispute

1 resolution; and

2 (3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those  
3 procedures.

4 Sec. 507.160. ANNUAL REGISTRY. (a) The executive council  
5 shall annually prepare a registry of all license holders.

6 (b) The executive council shall make the registry available  
7 to the public, license holders, and other state agencies.

8 SUBCHAPTER E. PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

9 Sec. 507.201. PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION. (a) The  
10 executive council shall prepare information of public interest  
11 describing the functions of the executive council and the  
12 procedures by which complaints are filed with and resolved by the  
13 executive council.

14 (b) The executive council shall make the information  
15 available to the public and appropriate state agencies.

16 Sec. 507.202. COMPLAINTS. (a) The executive council by  
17 rule shall establish methods by which consumers and service  
18 recipients are notified of the name, mailing address, and telephone  
19 number of the executive council for the purpose of directing  
20 complaints to the executive council. The executive council may  
21 provide for that notice:

22 (1) on each registration form, application, or written  
23 contract for services of a person regulated by the executive  
24 council;

25 (2) on a sign prominently displayed in the place of  
26 business of a person regulated by the executive council; or

27 (3) in a bill for services provided by a person

1 regulated by the executive council.

2 (b) The executive council shall list with its regular  
3 telephone number any toll-free telephone number established under  
4 other state law that may be called to present a complaint about a  
5 person regulated by the executive council.

6 Sec. 507.203. INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLAINT ACTIONS. (a)  
7 The executive council shall maintain a system to promptly and  
8 efficiently act on complaints filed with the executive council.  
9 The executive council shall maintain information about parties to  
10 the complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a summary of the  
11 results of the review or investigation of the complaint, and its  
12 disposition.

13 (b) The executive council shall make information available  
14 describing its procedures for complaint investigation and  
15 resolution.

16 (c) The executive council shall periodically notify the  
17 parties to a complaint of the status of the complaint until final  
18 disposition of the complaint.

19 Sec. 507.204. GENERAL RULES REGARDING COMPLAINT  
20 INVESTIGATION. (a) The executive council shall adopt rules  
21 concerning the investigation of a complaint filed with the  
22 executive council. The rules adopted under this section must:

23 (1) distinguish between categories of complaints;  
24 (2) ensure that a complaint is not dismissed without  
25 appropriate consideration;

26 (3) require that the executive council be advised of a  
27 complaint that is dismissed and that a letter be sent to the person

1 who filed the complaint explaining the action taken on the  
2 complaint;

3 (4) ensure that the person who files a complaint has an  
4 opportunity to explain the allegations made in the complaint; and

5 (5) prescribe guidelines concerning the categories of  
6 complaints that require the use of a private investigator and  
7 prescribe the procedures for the executive council to obtain the  
8 services of a private investigator.

9 (b) The executive council shall:

10 (1) dispose of a complaint in a timely manner; and

11 (2) establish a schedule for conducting each phase of  
12 the disposition of a complaint that is under the control of the  
13 executive council not later than the 30th day after the date the  
14 executive council receives the complaint.

15 (c) The executive council shall notify the parties to a  
16 complaint of the projected time requirements for pursuing the  
17 complaint.

18 (d) The executive council shall notify the parties to a  
19 complaint of any change in the schedule not later than the seventh  
20 day after the date the change is made.

21 (e) The executive director shall notify the executive  
22 council of a complaint that is unresolved after the time prescribed  
23 by the executive council for resolving the complaint so that the  
24 executive council may take necessary action on the complaint.

25 (f) The executive council shall assign priorities and  
26 investigate complaints based on:

27 (1) the severity of the conduct alleged in the

1 complaint; and

2 (2) the degree of harm to public health and safety.

3 Sec. 507.205. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMPLAINT INFORMATION.

4 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a complaint and  
5 investigation and all information and materials compiled by the  
6 executive council in connection with the complaint and  
7 investigation are not subject to:

8 (1) disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code; or

9 (2) disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or other means of  
10 legal compulsion for release of information to any person.

11 (b) A complaint or investigation subject to Subsection (a)  
12 and all information and materials compiled by the executive council  
13 in connection with the complaint may be disclosed to:

14 (1) the executive council and executive council  
15 employees or agents involved in license holder discipline;

16 (2) a party to a disciplinary action against the  
17 license holder or that party's designated representative;

18 (3) a law enforcement agency;

19 (4) a governmental agency, if:

20 (A) the disclosure is required or permitted by  
21 law; and

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

24 (5) a person engaged in bona fide research, if all  
25 information identifying a specific individual has been deleted.

26 (c) Unless good cause for delay is shown to the presiding  
27 officer at the hearing, the executive council shall provide the



1 license holder with access to all information that the executive  
2 council intends to offer into evidence at the hearing not later than  
3 the 30th day after the date the executive council receives a written  
4 request from a license holder who is entitled to a hearing under  
5 this chapter or from the license holder's attorney of record.

6 (d) The executive council shall protect the identity of any  
7 patient whose records are examined in connection with a  
8 disciplinary investigation or proceeding against a license holder,  
9 except a patient who:

10 (1) initiates the disciplinary action; or

11 (2) has submitted a written consent to release the  
12 records.

13 Sec. 507.206. SUBPOENAS. (a) In the investigation of a  
14 complaint filed with the executive council, the executive director  
15 or presiding officer of the executive council may issue a subpoena  
16 to compel the attendance of a relevant witness or the production,  
17 for inspection or copying, of relevant evidence that is in this  
18 state.

19 (b) A subpoena may be served personally or by certified  
20 mail.

21 (c) If a person fails to comply with a subpoena, the  
22 executive council, acting through the attorney general, may file  
23 suit to enforce the subpoena in a district court in Travis County or  
24 in the county in which a hearing conducted by the executive council  
25 may be held.

26 (d) On finding that good cause exists for issuing the  
27 subpoena, the court shall order the person to comply with the

1 subpoena. The court may punish a person who fails to obey the court  
2 order.

3 (e) The executive council shall pay a reasonable fee for  
4 photocopies subpoenaed under this section in an amount not to  
5 exceed the amount the executive council may charge for copies of its  
6 records.

7 (f) The reimbursement of the expenses of a witness whose  
8 attendance is compelled under this section is governed by Section  
9 2001.103, Government Code.

10 (g) Information and materials subpoenaed or compiled by the  
11 executive council in connection with the investigation of a  
12 complaint may be disclosed only as provided by Section 507.205.

13 Sec. 507.207. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The executive council  
14 shall develop and implement policies that provide the public with a  
15 reasonable opportunity to appear before the executive council and  
16 to speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the executive  
17 council.

18 SUBCHAPTER F. GENERAL LICENSING PROVISIONS

19 Sec. 507.251. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION FOR  
20 LICENSE ISSUANCE. (a) The executive council shall require that an  
21 applicant for a license submit a complete and legible set of  
22 fingerprints, on a form prescribed by the executive council, to the  
23 executive council or to the Department of Public Safety for the  
24 purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the  
25 Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of  
26 Investigation.

27 (b) The executive council may not issue a license to a

1 person who does not comply with the requirement of Subsection (a).

2 (c) The executive council shall conduct a criminal history  
3 record information check of each applicant for a license using  
4 information:

5 (1) provided by the individual under this section; and

6 (2) made available to the executive council by the  
7 Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
8 and any other criminal justice agency under Chapter 411, Government  
9 Code.

10 (d) The executive council may:

11 (1) enter into an agreement with the Department of  
12 Public Safety to administer a criminal history record information  
13 check required under this section; and

14 (2) authorize the Department of Public Safety to  
15 collect from each applicant the costs incurred by the Department of  
16 Public Safety in conducting the criminal history record information  
17 check.

18 Sec. 507.252. EXAMINATION RESULTS. (a) The executive  
19 council shall notify each examinee of the results of an examination  
20 not later than the 30th day after the date the examination is  
21 administered. If an examination is graded or reviewed by a national  
22 testing service, the executive council shall notify each examinee  
23 of the results of the examination not later than the 14th day after  
24 the date the executive council receives the results from the  
25 testing service.

26 (b) If the notice of examination results graded or reviewed  
27 by a national testing service will be delayed for longer than 90

1 days after the examination date, the executive council shall notify  
2 each examinee of the reason for the delay before the 90th day.

3 (c) If requested in writing by a person who fails an  
4 examination, the executive council shall provide to the person an  
5 analysis of the person's performance on the examination.

6 Sec. 507.253. REEXAMINATION. The executive council by rule  
7 shall establish:

8 (1) a limit on the number of times an applicant for a  
9 license who fails an examination may retake the examination; and

10 (2) the requirements for retaking an examination.

11 Sec. 507.254. LICENSE RENEWAL. (a) A person who is  
12 otherwise eligible to renew a license may renew an unexpired  
13 license by paying the required renewal fee to the executive council  
14 before the expiration date of the license.

15 (b) If the person's license has been expired for 90 days or  
16 less, the person may renew the license by paying to the executive  
17 council a fee in an amount equal to one and one-half times the  
18 required renewal fee.

19 (c) If the person's license has been expired for more than  
20 90 days but less than one year, the person may renew the license by  
21 paying to the executive council a fee in an amount equal to two  
22 times the required renewal fee.

23 (d) If the person's license has been expired for one year or  
24 more, the person may not renew the license. The person may obtain a  
25 new license by submitting to reexamination and complying with the  
26 requirements and procedures for obtaining an original license.

27 Sec. 507.255. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSE OF OUT-OF-STATE

1 PRACTITIONER. (a) The executive council may renew without  
2 reexamination an expired license of a person who was licensed in  
3 this state, moved to another state, and is currently licensed and  
4 has been in practice in the other state for the two years preceding  
5 the date the person applies for renewal.

6 (b) The person must pay to the executive council a fee in an  
7 amount equal to two times the required renewal fee for the license.

8 Sec. 507.256. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION  
9 REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL. (a) An applicant renewing a  
10 license issued under this chapter shall submit a complete and  
11 legible set of fingerprints for purposes of performing a criminal  
12 history record information check of the applicant as provided by  
13 Section 507.251.

14 (b) The executive council may administratively suspend or  
15 refuse to renew the license of a person who does not comply with the  
16 requirement of Subsection (a).

17 (c) A license holder is not required to submit fingerprints  
18 under this section for the renewal of a license if the license  
19 holder has previously submitted fingerprints under:

20 (1) Section 507.251 for the initial issuance of the  
21 license; or

22 (2) this section as part of a prior license renewal.

23 Sec. 507.257. SEARCH OF NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATABASE.  
24 The executive council shall establish a process to search at least  
25 one national practitioner database to determine whether another  
26 state has taken any disciplinary or other legal action against an  
27 applicant or license holder before issuing an initial or renewal

1 license.

2 SUBCHAPTER G. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES

3 Sec. 507.301. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS. (a) The executive

4 council may deny, revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew a license or  
5 may reprimand a license holder if the applicant or license holder  
6 violates:

7 (1) this chapter;

8 (2) a law of this state regulating the license holder's  
9 profession;

10 (3) an executive council rule; or

11 (4) a statute or rule of another state as determined  
12 through a search conducted as provided by Section 507.257 if the  
13 violation would constitute a violation described by Subdivision  
14 (1), (2), or (3) had it occurred in this state.

15 (b) The executive council may place on probation a person  
16 whose license is suspended. If a license suspension is probated,  
17 the executive council may require the person to:

18 (1) report regularly to the executive council on  
19 matters that are the basis of the probation;

20 (2) limit the person's practice to the areas  
21 prescribed by the executive council; or

22 (3) continue or review continuing professional  
23 education until the person attains a degree of skill satisfactory  
24 to the executive council in those areas that are the basis for the  
25 probation.

26 Sec. 507.302. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION. (a) The executive  
27 council or a three-member committee of executive council members

1 designated by the executive council shall temporarily suspend the  
2 license of a license holder if the executive council or committee  
3 determines from the evidence or information presented to it that  
4 continued practice by the license holder would constitute a  
5 continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare.

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

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

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

13 (c) The State Office of Administrative Hearings shall hold a  
14 preliminary hearing not later than the 14th day after the date of  
15 the temporary suspension to determine if there is probable cause to  
16 believe that a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare  
17 still exists. A final hearing on the matter shall be held not later  
18 than the 61st day after the date of the temporary suspension.

19 Sec. 507.303. HEARING; ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE. (a) A  
20 license holder is entitled to a hearing before the State Office of  
21 Administrative Hearings before a sanction is imposed under this  
22 subchapter.

23 (b) A proceeding under this subchapter is governed by  
24 Chapter 2001, Government Code.

25 Sec. 507.304. SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS. (a) The executive  
26 council by rule shall adopt a broad schedule of sanctions.

27 (b) The State Office of Administrative Hearings shall use

1 the schedule for any sanction imposed under this subchapter as the  
2 result of a hearing conducted by that office.

3 Sec. 507.305. INFORMAL PROCEEDINGS. (a) The executive  
4 council by rule shall adopt procedures governing:

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

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

9 (b) Rules adopted under this section must:

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

12 (2) require the presence of a member of the executive  
13 council's legal staff or an attorney employed by the attorney  
14 general to advise the executive council or the executive council's  
15 employees.

16 Sec. 507.306. ASSISTANCE IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS. The  
17 executive council shall adopt rules establishing the manner in  
18 which the executive council will solicit input from and request the  
19 assistance of the applicable board for a profession regulated by  
20 the executive council, regarding a disciplinary proceeding before  
21 the executive council involving an issue or complaint related to  
22 standards of care or ethical practice.

23 SUBCHAPTER H. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

24 Sec. 507.351. IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. The  
25 executive council may impose an administrative penalty on a person  
26 licensed or regulated by the executive council if the person  
27 violates this chapter, a law regulating the applicable profession,



1 or an executive council rule.

2 Sec. 507.352. AMOUNT OF PENALTY. (a) The amount of an  
3 administrative penalty may not exceed \$5,000 for each violation.  
4 Each day a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for  
5 purposes of imposing a penalty.

6 (b) The amount of the penalty must be based on:

7 (1) the seriousness of the violation, including:

8 (A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and  
9 gravity of any prohibited act; and

10 (B) the hazard or potential hazard created to the  
11 health, safety, or economic welfare of the public;

12 (2) the economic harm to property or the environment  
13 caused by the violation;

14 (3) the history of previous violations;

15 (4) the amount necessary to deter a future violation;

16 (5) efforts made to correct the violation; and

17 (6) any other matter that justice may require.

18 Sec. 507.353. NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND PENALTY. If the  
19 executive council determines that a violation occurred, the  
20 executive council shall give written notice of the violation to the  
21 person alleged to have committed the violation. The notice may be  
22 given by certified mail. The notice must:

23 (1) include a brief summary of the alleged violation;

24 (2) state the amount of the administrative penalty  
25 recommended by the executive council; and

26 (3) inform the person of the person's right to a  
27 hearing on the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the

1 penalty, or both.

2 Sec. 507.354. PENALTY TO BE PAID OR HEARING REQUESTED. (a)  
3 Not later than the 20th day after the date the person receives the  
4 notice under Section 507.353, the person may in writing:

5 (1) accept the executive council's determination and  
6 recommended administrative penalty; or

7 (2) request a hearing on the occurrence of the  
8 violation, the amount of the penalty, or both.

9 (b) If the person accepts the executive council's  
10 determination and recommended penalty, the executive council shall  
11 issue an order and impose the recommended penalty.

12 Sec. 507.355. HEARING. (a) If the person requests a  
13 hearing or fails to respond in a timely manner to the notice under  
14 Section 507.353, the executive council shall set a hearing and give  
15 written notice of the hearing to the person.

16 (b) An administrative law judge of the State Office of  
17 Administrative Hearings shall hold the hearing.

18 (c) The administrative law judge shall make findings of fact  
19 and conclusions of law and promptly issue to the executive council a  
20 proposal for a decision as to the occurrence of the violation and  
21 the amount of any proposed administrative penalty.

22 Sec. 507.356. DECISION BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. (a) Based on  
23 the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and proposal for a  
24 decision, the executive council by order may determine that:

25 (1) a violation occurred and impose an administrative  
26 penalty; or

27 (2) a violation did not occur.

1       (b) The executive council shall give notice of the order to  
2 the person. The notice must include a statement of the right of the  
3 person to judicial review of the order.

4       Sec. 507.357. OPTIONS FOLLOWING DECISION: PAY OR APPEAL.

5       (a) Not later than the 30th day after the date the executive  
6 council's order becomes final, the person shall:

7               (1) pay the administrative penalty; or

8               (2) file a petition for judicial review contesting the  
9 occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both.

10       (b) Within the 30-day period prescribed by Subsection (a), a  
11 person who files a petition for judicial review may:

12               (1) stay enforcement of the penalty by:

13                       (A) paying the penalty to the court for placement  
14 in an escrow account; or

15                       (B) giving to the court a supersedeas bond  
16 approved by the court that is:

17                               (i) for the amount of the penalty; and

18                               (ii) effective until judicial review of the  
19 executive council's order is final; or

20               (2) request the court to stay enforcement of the  
21 penalty by:

22                       (A) filing with the court a sworn affidavit of  
23 the person stating that the person is financially unable to pay the  
24 penalty and is financially unable to give the supersedeas bond; and

25                       (B) giving a copy of the affidavit to the  
26 executive council by certified mail.

27       (c) If the executive council receives a copy of an affidavit

1 under Subsection (b)(2), the executive council may file with the  
2 court a contest to the affidavit not later than the fifth day after  
3 the date the copy is received.

4 (d) The court shall hold a hearing on the facts alleged in  
5 the affidavit as soon as practicable and shall stay the enforcement  
6 of the penalty on finding that the alleged facts are true. The  
7 person who files the affidavit has the burden of proving that the  
8 person is financially unable to pay the penalty or to give a  
9 supersedeas bond.

10 Sec. 507.358. COLLECTION OF PENALTY. If the person does not  
11 pay the administrative penalty and enforcement of the penalty is  
12 not stayed, the executive council may refer the matter to the  
13 attorney general for collection of the penalty.

14 Sec. 507.359. DETERMINATION BY COURT. (a) If the court  
15 sustains the determination that a violation has occurred, the court  
16 may uphold or reduce the amount of the administrative penalty and  
17 order the person to pay the full or reduced amount of the penalty.

18 (b) If the court does not sustain the determination that a  
19 violation occurred, the court shall order that a penalty is not  
20 owed.

21 Sec. 507.360. REMITTANCE OF PENALTY AND INTEREST. (a) If,  
22 after judicial review, the administrative penalty is reduced or not  
23 imposed by the court, the court shall, after the judgment becomes  
24 final:

25 (1) order that the appropriate amount, plus accrued  
26 interest, be remitted to the person if the person paid the penalty;  
27 or

1           (2) order the release of the bond:

2                   (A) if the person gave a supersedeas bond and the  
3 penalty is not imposed; or

4                   (B) after the person pays the penalty if the  
5 person gave a supersedeas bond and the penalty is reduced.

6           (b) The interest paid under Subsection (a)(1) is the rate  
7 charged on loans to depository institutions by the New York Federal  
8 Reserve Bank. The interest shall be paid for the period beginning  
9 on the date the penalty is paid and ending on the date the penalty is  
10 remitted.

11           Sec. 507.361. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE. A proceeding under  
12 this subchapter is subject to Chapter 2001, Government Code.

13           SUBCHAPTER I. OTHER PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

14           Sec. 507.401. INJUNCTION. (a) In addition to any other  
15 action authorized by law, the executive council may institute an  
16 action to enjoin a violation of this chapter, a law regulating the  
17 applicable profession, or an executive council rule.

18           (b) An action filed under this section must be filed in  
19 Travis County, the county of the defendant's residence, or the  
20 county in which any part of the violation occurred.

21           (c) The attorney general or the appropriate county or  
22 district attorney shall represent the executive council in an  
23 action under this section.

24           Sec. 507.402. CIVIL PENALTY. (a) A person who violates  
25 this chapter, a law regulating the applicable profession, or an  
26 executive council rule is liable to the state for a civil penalty  
27 not to exceed \$1,000 for each day of violation.

1 (b) At the request of the executive council, the attorney  
2 general shall bring an action to recover a civil penalty authorized  
3 under this section.

4 Sec. 507.403. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER. (a) If it appears to  
5 the executive council that an unlicensed person is violating this  
6 chapter, a law regulating the applicable profession, or an  
7 executive council rule, the executive council, after notice and  
8 opportunity for a hearing, may issue a cease and desist order  
9 prohibiting the person from engaging in the activity.

10 (b) A violation of an order under this section constitutes  
11 grounds for imposing an administrative penalty under Subchapter H.

12 Sec. 507.404. MONITORING OF LICENSE HOLDER. The executive  
13 council by rule shall develop a system to monitor a license holder's  
14 compliance with applicable laws and executive council rules. Rules  
15 adopted under this section must include procedures to:

16 (1) monitor for compliance a license holder who is  
17 ordered by the executive council to perform certain acts; and

18 (2) identify and monitor each license holder who  
19 represents a risk to the public.

20 ARTICLE 2. TRANSFER OF LICENSING PROGRAMS TO TEXAS BEHAVIORAL  
21 HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

22 SECTION 2.001. Section [501.002](#), Occupations Code, is  
23 amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

24 (1-a) "Executive council" means the Texas Behavioral  
25 Health Executive Council.

26 SECTION 2.002. The heading to Section [501.053](#), Occupations  
27 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1           Sec. 501.053. MEMBERSHIP [~~AND EMPLOYEE~~] RESTRICTIONS.

2           SECTION 2.003. Sections 501.053(b) and (c), Occupations  
3 Code, are amended to read as follows:

4           (b) A person may not be a member of the board [~~and may not be~~  
5 ~~a board employee employed in a "bona fide executive,~~  
6 ~~administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used~~  
7 ~~for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime~~  
8 ~~provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29~~  
9 ~~U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.)~~] if:

10           (1) the person is an officer, employee, or paid  
11 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of health  
12 services; or

13           (2) the person's spouse is an officer, manager, or paid  
14 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of mental  
15 health.

16           (c) A person may not be a member of the board [~~or act as the~~  
17 ~~general counsel to the board~~] if the person is required to register  
18 as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, because of the  
19 person's activities for compensation on behalf of a profession  
20 related to the operation of the board.

21           SECTION 2.004. Section 501.055(c), Occupations Code, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23           (c) If the executive director of the executive council has  
24 knowledge that a potential ground for removal exists, the executive  
25 director shall notify the presiding officer of the board of the  
26 potential ground. The presiding officer shall then notify the  
27 governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for

1 removal exists. If the potential ground for removal involves the  
2 presiding officer, the executive director shall notify the next  
3 highest ranking officer of the board, who shall then notify the  
4 governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for  
5 removal exists.

6 SECTION 2.005. Section 501.059, Occupations Code, is  
7 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to  
8 read as follows:

9 (b) The training program must provide the person with  
10 information regarding:

11 (1) the law governing board operations;

12 (2) [this chapter and] the programs, functions, rules,  
13 and budget of the board;

14 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking  
15 authority of the board;

16 (4) [~~(2)~~] the results of the most recent formal audit  
17 of the board;

18 (5) [~~(3)~~] the requirements of:

19 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public  
20 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of  
21 interest; and

22 (B) other laws applicable to members of the board  
23 in performing their duties; and

24 (6) [~~(4)~~] any applicable ethics policies adopted by  
25 the board or the Texas Ethics Commission.

26 (d) The executive director of the executive council shall  
27 create a training manual that includes the information required by



1 Subsection (b). The executive director shall distribute a copy of  
2 the training manual annually to each board member. On receipt of  
3 the training manual, each board member shall sign and submit to the  
4 executive director a statement acknowledging receipt of the  
5 training manual.

6 SECTION 2.006. The heading to Subchapter D, Chapter 501,  
7 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER D. [~~BOARD~~] POWERS AND DUTIES

9 SECTION 2.007. The heading to Section 501.151, Occupations  
10 Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 Sec. 501.151. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE  
12 COUNCIL.

13 SECTION 2.008. Sections 501.151(c) and (d), Occupations  
14 Code, are amended to read as follows:

15 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] shall adopt and publish a  
16 code of ethics under this chapter.

17 (d) The executive council [~~board~~] may certify the specialty  
18 of health service providers under this chapter.

19 SECTION 2.009. Subchapter D, Chapter 501, Occupations Code,  
20 is amended by adding Section 501.1515 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 501.1515. BOARD DUTIES. The board shall propose to the  
22 executive council:

23 (1) rules regarding:

24 (A) the qualifications necessary to obtain a  
25 license, including rules limiting an applicant's eligibility for a  
26 license based on the applicant's criminal history;

27 (B) the scope of practice of and standards of

1 care and ethical practice for psychology; and  
2 (C) continuing education requirements for  
3 license holders; and  
4 (2) a schedule of sanctions for violations of this  
5 chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

6 SECTION 2.010. Section 501.155, Occupations Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 501.155. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES. (a) The executive  
9 council [~~board~~] may cooperate with an agency that is not subject to  
10 this chapter to formulate voluntary guidelines to be observed in  
11 the training, activities, and supervision of persons who perform  
12 psychological services.

13 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (a), the executive  
14 council [~~board~~] may not adopt a rule that relates to the  
15 administration of an agency that is not subject to this chapter.

16 SECTION 2.011. Section 501.158, Occupations Code, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Sec. 501.158. COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS. (a) This section  
19 applies to a person who is:

20 (1) applying to take the [~~provisional~~] license  
21 examination;

22 (2) applying for a license or license renewal;

23 (3) currently licensed under this chapter [~~by the~~  
24 ~~board~~]; or

25 (4) otherwise providing psychological services under  
26 a license approved by the executive council under this chapter  
27 [~~board~~].

1 (b) On a determination by the executive council [~~board~~]  
2 based on the executive council's [~~board's~~] reasonable belief that a  
3 person is not physically and mentally competent to provide  
4 psychological services with reasonable skill and safety to patients  
5 or has a physical or mental disease or condition that would impair  
6 the person's competency to provide psychological services, the  
7 executive council [~~board~~] may request the person to submit to:

8 (1) a physical examination by a physician approved by  
9 the executive council [~~board~~]; or

10 (2) a mental examination by a physician or  
11 psychologist approved by the executive council [~~board~~].

12 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] shall issue an order  
13 requiring a [~~an applicant or~~] person [~~seeking renewal of a~~  
14 ~~provisional license~~] who refuses to submit to an examination under  
15 this section to show cause for the person's refusal at a hearing on  
16 the order scheduled for not later than the 30th day after the date  
17 notice is served on the person. The executive council [~~board~~] shall  
18 provide notice under this section by personal service or by  
19 registered mail, return receipt requested.

20 (d) At the hearing, the person may appear in person and by  
21 counsel and present evidence to justify the person's refusal to  
22 submit to examination. After the hearing, the executive council  
23 [~~board~~] shall issue an order requiring the person to submit to  
24 examination under this section or withdrawing the request for the  
25 examination.

26 (e) Unless the request is withdrawn, the executive council  
27 may take disciplinary action against a person who refuses to submit

1 to the physical or mental examination [~~may not take the provisional~~  
2 ~~license examination or renew the person's license, as appropriate~~].

3 (f) An appeal from the executive council's [~~board's~~] order  
4 under this section is governed by Chapter 2001, Government Code.

5 SECTION 2.012. Section 501.252(a), Occupations Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) To be licensed under this chapter, a person must apply  
8 to the executive council [~~board~~] for a license. The executive  
9 council [~~board~~] shall issue a license to an applicant who:

10 (1) is qualified for the license under Section  
11 501.2525 [~~complies with this section~~]; and

12 (2) pays the fee set by the executive council [~~board~~].

13 SECTION 2.013. Section 501.255, Occupations Code, is  
14 redesignated as Section 501.2525, Occupations Code, and amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 Sec. 501.2525 [~~501.255~~]. [~~PROVISIONAL~~] LICENSE

17 [~~EXAMINATION~~] QUALIFICATIONS. (a) An applicant is qualified [~~may~~  
18 ~~take an examination~~] for a [~~provisional~~] license under this chapter  
19 if the applicant:

20 (1) has received:

21 (A) a doctoral degree in psychology from a  
22 regionally accredited educational institution conferred on or  
23 after January 1, 1979; or

24 (B) a doctoral degree in psychology, or the  
25 substantial equivalent of a doctoral degree in psychology in both  
26 subject matter and extent of training, from a regionally accredited  
27 educational institution conferred before January 1, 1979;

1           (2) except as provided by Subsection (c) and Section  
2 501.253, has:

3                   (A) at least two years of supervised experience  
4 in the field of psychological services, one year of which may be as  
5 part of the doctoral program and at least one year of which began  
6 after the date the person's doctoral degree was conferred by an  
7 institution of higher education; and

8                   (B) passed any examination required by Section  
9 501.256;

10           (3) has attained the age of majority;

11           ~~[(3) has good moral character;]~~

12           (4) is physically and mentally competent to provide  
13 psychological services with reasonable skill and safety, as  
14 determined by the executive council ~~[board]~~;

15           (5) is not afflicted with a mental or physical disease  
16 or condition that would impair the applicant's competency to  
17 provide psychological services;

18           (6) has not been convicted of a crime involving moral  
19 turpitude or a felony;

20           (7) does not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that  
21 affects the applicant's professional competency;

22           (8) has not engaged in fraud or deceit in making the  
23 application; and

24           (9) except as provided by Section 501.263, has not:

25                   (A) aided or abetted the practice of psychology  
26 by a person not licensed under this chapter in representing that the  
27 person is licensed under this chapter;

1 (B) represented that the applicant is licensed  
2 under this chapter to practice psychology when the applicant is not  
3 licensed; or

4 (C) practiced psychology in this state without a  
5 license under this chapter or without being exempt under this  
6 chapter.

7 (b) In determining under Subsection (a)(1)(B) whether a  
8 degree is substantially equivalent to a doctoral degree in  
9 psychology, the executive council [~~board~~] shall consider whether,  
10 at the time the degree was conferred, the doctoral program met the  
11 prevailing standards for training in the area of psychology,  
12 including standards for training in clinical, school, and  
13 industrial counseling.

14 (c) Subsection (a)(2)(A) does not apply to an applicant who:

15 (1) is licensed in good standing in another state to  
16 independently practice psychology; and

17 (2) has independently practiced psychology in that  
18 state for at least five years.

19 (d) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2)(A), experience is  
20 supervised only if the experience is supervised by a psychologist  
21 in the manner provided by the executive council's supervision  
22 guidelines. To determine the acceptability of an applicant's  
23 experience, the executive council may require documentary evidence  
24 of the quality, scope, and nature of the applicant's experience.  
25 The executive council may count toward the supervised experience an  
26 applicant is required to obtain after the applicant's degree is  
27 conferred any hours of supervised experience the applicant

1 completed as part of a degree program accredited by the American  
2 Psychological Association, the Canadian Psychological Association,  
3 or a substantially equivalent degree program.

4 SECTION 2.014. Section 501.253, Occupations Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 501.253. PROVISIONAL STATUS FOR CERTAIN APPLICANTS  
7 [~~LICENSE~~]. (a) The executive council may [~~board shall~~] issue a  
8 [~~provisional~~] license with a provisional status to an applicant who  
9 has not satisfied the experience or examination requirements of  
10 Section 501.2525(a)(2) but is otherwise qualified for the license  
11 under Section 501.2525 [+

- 12 [~~(1) passed the examinations prescribed by the board,~~  
13 [~~(2) satisfied the preliminary requirements of~~  
14 ~~Sections 501.254 and 501.255, and~~  
15 [~~(3) paid the fee for a provisional license~~].

16 (b) A [~~provisional~~] license holder described by Subsection  
17 (a) is entitled to practice psychology under the supervision of a  
18 psychologist to meet the requirements for issuance of a license  
19 under Section 501.2525, except that if the [~~501.252. A~~  
20 ~~provisional~~] license holder [~~who~~] is licensed in another state to  
21 independently practice psychology and is in good standing in that  
22 state, the license holder [~~and who seeks a license in this state~~] is  
23 entitled to practice psychology without the supervision of a  
24 psychologist [~~during the time that the board is processing the~~  
25 ~~person's application for a license~~].

26 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] shall adopt rules that  
27 apply to a [~~provisional~~] license holder described by Subsection (a)

1 ~~holders~~ identifying:

2 (1) the activities that the license holder ~~holders~~  
3 may engage in; and

4 (2) services that may be provided by the license  
5 holder ~~holders~~.

6 (d) The executive council ~~board~~ may refuse to renew a [the  
7 ~~provisional]~~ license issued under Subsection (a) if the license  
8 holder ~~[of a person who]~~ does not meet the requirements prescribed  
9 by Section 501.2525(a)(2) ~~[501.255]~~.

10 (e) The executive council ~~board~~ may not restrict the  
11 issuance of a license ~~[or provisional license]~~ to an applicant who  
12 is licensed in another state to independently practice psychology  
13 and is in good standing in that state based on the number of years  
14 the applicant has been licensed in good standing in that state.

15 ~~[(f) If an applicant who is licensed in another state to~~  
16 ~~independently practice psychology and is in good standing in that~~  
17 ~~state presents credentials from a national accreditation~~  
18 ~~organization to the board and the board determines that the~~  
19 ~~requirements for obtaining those credentials from that~~  
20 ~~organization are sufficient to protect the public, the board may~~  
21 ~~issue a provisional license to the applicant. An applicant who~~  
22 ~~obtains a provisional license under this subsection must have~~  
23 ~~passed the examination described by Section 501.256(b)(2).]~~

24 SECTION 2.015. Sections 501.256(a), (b), (c), and (d),  
25 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

26 (a) The executive council ~~board~~ shall administer to  
27 qualified applicants at least annually any ~~[the oral and]~~ written



1 examination required by executive council [~~board~~] rules. An [~~The~~  
2 ~~board shall have the written portion of the~~] examination must be [~~,~~  
3 ~~if any,~~] validated by an independent testing professional.

4 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall determine the  
5 subject and scope of each examination [~~the examinations~~] and  
6 establish appropriate fees for examinations administered. The  
7 examination must test the applicant's knowledge of:

- 8 (1) the discipline and profession of psychology; and  
9 (2) the laws and rules governing the profession of  
10 psychology in this state.

11 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] may waive the discipline  
12 and professional segment of the examination requirement for an  
13 applicant who:

14 (1) is a specialist of the American Board of  
15 Professional Psychology; or

16 (2) in the executive council's [~~board's~~] judgment, has  
17 demonstrated competence in the areas covered by the examination.

18 (d) The contents of the examination described by Subsection  
19 (b)(2) are the jurisprudence examination. The executive council  
20 [~~board~~] shall administer and each applicant must pass the  
21 jurisprudence examination before the executive council [~~board~~] may  
22 issue a [~~provisional~~] license.

23 SECTION 2.016. Section **501.259**, Occupations Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 Sec. 501.259. LICENSING OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE. (a)  
26 The executive council [~~board~~] shall set standards for the issuance  
27 of licenses to psychological personnel who hold a master's degree

1 from an accredited university or college in a program that is  
2 primarily psychological in nature.

3 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall designate a person  
4 who holds a license authorized by this section by a title that  
5 includes the adjective "psychological" followed by a noun such as  
6 "associate," "assistant," "examiner," or "technician."

7 SECTION 2.017. Sections 501.260(a) and (b), Occupations  
8 Code, are amended to read as follows:

9 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] by rule shall issue a  
10 license to a licensed specialist in school psychology. A license  
11 issued under this section constitutes the appropriate credential  
12 for a person who provides psychological services as required by  
13 Section 21.003(b), Education Code.

14 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall set the standards to  
15 qualify for a license under this section. The standards must  
16 include:

17 (1) satisfaction of minimum recognized graduate  
18 degree requirements;

19 (2) completion of graduate course work at a regionally  
20 accredited institution of higher education in:

21 (A) psychological foundations;

22 (B) educational foundations;

23 (C) interventions;

24 (D) assessments; and

25 (E) professional issues and ethics;

26 (3) completion of at least 1,200 hours of supervised  
27 experience;

1 (4) receipt of a passing score on a nationally  
2 recognized qualifying examination determined to be appropriate by  
3 the executive council [~~board~~] and on any other examination required  
4 by the executive council [~~board~~]; and

5 (5) satisfaction of the requirements under Sections  
6 501.2525(a)(3)-(9) [~~, other than the degree requirements, for an~~  
7 ~~applicant to take an examination for a provisional license~~].

8 SECTION 2.018. Section 501.262, Occupations Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 501.262. RECIPROCAL LICENSE. The executive council  
11 [~~board~~] may enter into and implement agreements with other  
12 jurisdictions for the issuance of a license by reciprocity if the  
13 other jurisdiction's requirements for licensing, certification, or  
14 registration are substantially equal to the requirements of this  
15 chapter.

16 SECTION 2.019. Sections 501.263(a), (b), (c), and (e),  
17 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

18 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] may issue a temporary  
19 license to an applicant seeking to practice in this state for a  
20 limited time and limited purpose if the applicant:

21 (1) pays the required application fee;

22 (2) submits an application to the executive council  
23 [~~board~~] in the form prescribed by the executive council [~~board~~];

24 (3) is licensed, certified, or registered as a  
25 psychologist or psychological associate by another state having  
26 requirements substantially equal to those prescribed by this  
27 chapter;

1           (4) is in good standing with the regulatory agency of  
2 the jurisdiction in which the person is licensed, certified, or  
3 registered;

4           (5) is supervised by a person licensed [~~by the board~~]  
5 under this chapter with whom the temporary license holder may  
6 consult during the time the person holds a temporary license; and

7           (6) has passed an examination recognized by the  
8 executive council [~~board~~] as equivalent to the examination required  
9 [~~by the board~~] for a permanent license under this chapter.

10          (b) A temporary license is valid only for the period  
11 specified by the executive council [~~board~~] and for the limited  
12 purpose approved by the executive council [~~board~~].

13          (c) The executive council [~~board~~] may adopt rules to issue a  
14 temporary license to a person who holds a license or the equivalent  
15 from another country.

16          (e) A person holding a temporary license issued under this  
17 chapter shall display a sign indicating that the license is  
18 temporary. The sign must be approved by the executive council  
19 [~~board~~] and displayed in every room in which the person provides  
20 psychological services.

21          SECTION 2.020. Section 501.264(a), Occupations Code, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23          (a) A psychologist may place the psychologist's license on  
24 inactive status by applying to the executive council [~~board~~] and  
25 paying a fee established by the executive council [~~board~~].

26          SECTION 2.021. Section 501.301, Occupations Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

1           Sec. 501.301. LICENSE EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL. (a) The  
 2 executive council shall adopt rules providing for the expiration  
 3 and renewal of a [A] license issued under this chapter. The rules  
 4 must require a license be renewed annually or biennially [~~expires~~  
 5 ~~on December 31 of the year following the date the license is issued~~  
 6 ~~or renewed. A license of a psychological associate expires on May~~  
 7 ~~31 of the year following the date the license is issued or renewed~~].

8           (b) The executive council [~~board~~] by rule may adopt a system  
 9 under which licenses expire on various dates during the year. For a  
 10 year in which the expiration date is changed, the executive council  
 11 [~~board~~] shall prorate the licensing fee so that each license holder  
 12 pays only the portion of the fee that is allocable to the number of  
 13 months during which the license is valid. On renewal of the license  
 14 on the new expiration date, the entire licensing fee is payable.

15           SECTION 2.022. Sections [501.351](#)(a) and (c), Occupations  
 16 Code, are amended to read as follows:

17           (a) A psychologist licensed under this chapter may delegate  
 18 to a [~~provisionally licensed~~] psychologist who holds a license  
 19 described by Section [501.253](#), a newly licensed psychologist who is  
 20 not eligible for managed care panels, a person who holds a temporary  
 21 license issued under Section [501.263](#), or a person enrolled in a  
 22 formal internship as provided by executive council [~~board~~] rules [~~7~~  
 23 ~~and a person who satisfies Section [501.255](#)(a) and is in the process~~  
 24 ~~of acquiring the supervised experience required by Section~~  
 25 ~~[501.252](#)(b)(2)] any psychological test or service that a reasonable~~  
 26 and prudent psychologist could delegate within the scope of sound  
 27 psychological judgment if the psychologist determines that:

1 (1) the test or service can be properly and safely  
2 performed by the person;

3 (2) the person does not represent to the public that  
4 the person is authorized to practice psychology; and

5 (3) the test or service will be performed in the  
6 customary manner and in compliance with any other law.

7 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] may determine whether:

8 (1) a psychological test or service may be properly  
9 and safely delegated under this section; and

10 (2) a delegated act constitutes the practice of  
11 psychology under this chapter.

12 SECTION 2.023. Section 501.401, Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 501.401. GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. The  
15 executive council [~~board~~] shall take disciplinary action under  
16 Subchapter G, Chapter 507, against [~~revoke or suspend a holder's~~  
17 ~~license, place on probation a person whose license has been~~  
18 ~~suspended, or reprimand~~] a license holder who:

19 (1) violates this chapter or a rule adopted under this  
20 chapter [~~by the board~~];

21 (2) is convicted of a felony or of any offense that  
22 would be a felony under the laws of this state, or of a violation of  
23 a law involving moral turpitude;

24 (3) uses drugs or alcohol to an extent that affects the  
25 person's professional competency;

26 (4) engages in fraud or deceit in connection with  
27 services provided as a psychologist;

1 (5) except as provided by Section 501.263:

2 (A) aids or abets the practice of psychology by a  
3 person not licensed under this chapter in representing that the  
4 person is licensed under this chapter;

5 (B) represents that the person is licensed under  
6 this chapter to practice psychology when the person is not  
7 licensed; or

8 (C) practices psychology in this state without a  
9 license under this chapter or without being qualified for an  
10 exemption under Section 501.004; or

11 (6) commits an act for which liability exists under  
12 Chapter 81, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

13 SECTION 2.024. Section 501.407, Occupations Code, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Sec. 501.407. REMEDIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION. The executive  
16 council [~~board~~] may require a license holder who violates this  
17 chapter to participate in a continuing education program. The  
18 executive council [~~board~~] shall specify the continuing education  
19 program that the person may attend and the number of hours that the  
20 person must complete to fulfill the requirements of this section.

21 SECTION 2.025. Section 501.408, Occupations Code, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 501.408. CORRECTIVE ADVERTISING. The executive  
24 council [~~board~~] may order corrective advertising if a psychologist,  
25 individually or under an assumed name, engages in false,  
26 misleading, or deceptive advertising.

27 SECTION 2.026. Subchapter I, Chapter 501, Occupations Code,

1 is amended by adding Section 501.411 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 501.411. REMEDIAL PLAN. (a) The executive council may  
3 issue and establish the terms of a remedial plan to resolve the  
4 investigation of a complaint filed under this chapter.

5 (b) The executive council by rule shall establish the types  
6 of complaints or violations that may be resolved with a remedial  
7 plan. The rules must provide that a remedial plan may not be  
8 imposed to resolve a complaint:

9 (1) involving conduct that poses a significant risk of  
10 harm to a patient; or

11 (2) in which the appropriate resolution may involve  
12 revoking, suspending, limiting, or restricting a person's license.

13 (c) A remedial plan may not contain a provision that:

14 (1) revokes, suspends, limits, or restricts a person's  
15 license; or

16 (2) assesses an administrative penalty against a  
17 person.

18 (d) The executive council may not issue a remedial plan to  
19 resolve a complaint against a license holder if the license holder  
20 has previously entered into a remedial plan with the executive  
21 council for the resolution of a different complaint filed under  
22 this chapter.

23 (e) The executive council may assess a fee against a license  
24 holder participating in a remedial plan in an amount necessary to  
25 recover the costs of administering the plan.

26 SECTION 2.027. Section 501.505, Occupations Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:



1           Sec. 501.505. OPTION TO ORDER REFUND. (a) Under an  
2 agreement resulting from an informal settlement conference, the  
3 executive council [~~board~~] may order a license holder to refund to  
4 the person who paid for the psychological services at issue an  
5 amount not to exceed the amount the person paid to the license  
6 holder for a service regulated by this chapter instead of or in  
7 addition to imposing an administrative penalty under Subchapter H,  
8 Chapter 507 [~~this chapter~~].

9           (b) The executive council [~~board~~] may not include an  
10 estimation of other damages or harm in a refund order.

11           SECTION 2.028. Chapter 501, Occupations Code, is amended by  
12 adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

13           SUBCHAPTER L. PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT

14           Sec. 501.601. PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT. The  
15 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact is enacted and entered into  
16 as follows:

17                           PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT

18   ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

19 Whereas, states license psychologists, in order to protect the  
20 public through verification of education, training and experience  
21 and ensure accountability for professional practice; and

22 Whereas, this Compact is intended to regulate the day to day  
23 practice of telepsychology (i.e. the provision of psychological  
24 services using telecommunication technologies) by psychologists  
25 across state boundaries in the performance of their psychological  
26 practice as assigned by an appropriate authority; and

27 Whereas, this Compact is intended to regulate the temporary

1 in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology by psychologists  
2 across state boundaries for 30 days within a calendar year in the  
3 performance of their psychological practice as assigned by an  
4 appropriate authority;

5 Whereas, this Compact is intended to authorize State Psychology  
6 Regulatory Authorities to afford legal recognition, in a manner  
7 consistent with the terms of the Compact, to psychologists licensed  
8 in another state;

9 Whereas, this Compact recognizes that states have a vested interest  
10 in protecting the public's health and safety through their  
11 licensing and regulation of psychologists and that such state  
12 regulation will best protect public health and safety;

13 Whereas, this Compact does not apply when a psychologist is  
14 licensed in both the Home and Receiving States; and

15 Whereas, this Compact does not apply to permanent in-person,  
16 face-to-face practice, it does allow for authorization of temporary  
17 psychological practice.

18 Consistent with these principles, this Compact is designed to  
19 achieve the following purposes and objectives:

20 1. Increase public access to professional psychological  
21 services by allowing for telepsychological practice  
22 across state lines as well as temporary in-person,  
23 face-to-face services into a state which the psychologist  
24 is not licensed to practice psychology;

25 2. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health  
26 and safety, especially client/patient safety;

27 3. Encourage the cooperation of Compact States in the areas of

1           psychology licensure and regulation;

2           4. Facilitate the exchange of information between Compact  
3           States regarding psychologist licensure, adverse actions  
4           and disciplinary history;

5           5. Promote compliance with the laws governing psychological  
6           practice in each Compact State; and

7           6. Invest all Compact States with the authority to hold  
8           licensed psychologists accountable through the mutual  
9           recognition of Compact State licenses.

10                           ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

11 A. "Adverse Action" means: Any action taken by a State Psychology  
12 Regulatory Authority which finds a violation of a statute or  
13 regulation that is identified by the State Psychology  
14 Regulatory Authority as discipline and is a matter of public  
15 record.

16 B. "Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards  
17 (ASPPB)" means: the recognized membership organization  
18 composed of State and Provincial Psychology Regulatory  
19 Authorities responsible for the licensure and registration of  
20 psychologists throughout the United States and Canada.

21 C. "Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology"  
22 means: a licensed psychologist's authority to practice  
23 telepsychology, within the limits authorized under this  
24 Compact, in another Compact State.

25 D. "Bylaws" means: those Bylaws established by the Psychology  
26 Interjurisdictional Compact Commission pursuant to Section X  
27 for its governance, or for directing and controlling its

- 1       actions and conduct.
- 2 E. "Client/Patient" means: the recipient of psychological  
3 services, whether psychological services are delivered in the  
4 context of healthcare, corporate, supervision, and/or  
5 consulting services.
- 6 F. "Commissioner" means: the voting representative appointed by  
7 each State Psychology Regulatory Authority pursuant to Section  
8 X.
- 9 G. "Compact State" means: a state, the District of Columbia, or  
10 United States territory that has enacted this Compact  
11 legislation and which has not withdrawn pursuant to Article  
12 XIII, Section C or been terminated pursuant to Article XII,  
13 Section B.
- 14 H. "Coordinated Licensure Information System" also referred to as  
15 "Coordinated Database" means: an integrated process for  
16 collecting, storing, and sharing information on psychologists'  
17 licensure and enforcement activities related to psychology  
18 licensure laws, which is administered by the recognized  
19 membership organization composed of State and Provincial  
20 Psychology Regulatory Authorities.
- 21 I. "Confidentiality" means: the principle that data or  
22 information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorized  
23 persons and/or processes.
- 24 J. "Day" means: any part of a day in which psychological work is  
25 performed.
- 26 K. "Distant State" means: the Compact State where a psychologist  
27 is physically present (not through the use of

1 telecommunications technologies), to provide temporary  
2 in-person, face-to-face psychological services.

3 L. "E.Passport" means: a certificate issued by the Association of  
4 State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) that promotes  
5 the standardization in the criteria of interjurisdictional  
6 telepsychology practice and facilitates the process for  
7 licensed psychologists to provide telepsychological services  
8 across state lines.

9 M. "Executive Board" means: a group of directors elected or  
10 appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to  
11 them by, the Commission.

12 N. "Home State" means: a Compact State where a psychologist is  
13 licensed to practice psychology. If the psychologist is  
14 licensed in more than one Compact State and is practicing under  
15 the Authorization to Practice Interjurisdictional  
16 Telepsychology, the Home State is the Compact State where the  
17 psychologist is physically present when the telepsychological  
18 services are delivered. If the psychologist is licensed in more  
19 than one Compact State and is practicing under the Temporary  
20 Authorization to Practice, the Home State is any Compact State  
21 where the psychologist is licensed.

22 O. "Identity History Summary" means: a summary of information  
23 retained by the FBI, or other designee with similar authority,  
24 in connection with arrests and, in some instances, federal  
25 employment, naturalization, or military service.

26 P. "In-Person, Face-to-Face" means: interactions in which the  
27 psychologist and the client/patient are in the same physical

1 space and which does not include interactions that may occur  
2 through the use of telecommunication technologies.

3 Q. "Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC)" means: a  
4 certificate issued by the Association of State and Provincial  
5 Psychology Boards (ASPPB) that grants temporary authority to  
6 practice based on notification to the State Psychology  
7 Regulatory Authority of intention to practice temporarily, and  
8 verification of one's qualifications for such practice.

9 R. "License" means: authorization by a State Psychology  
10 Regulatory Authority to engage in the independent practice of  
11 psychology, which would be unlawful without the authorization.

12 S. "Non-Compact State" means: any State which is not at the time a  
13 Compact State.

14 T. "Psychologist" means: an individual licensed for the  
15 independent practice of psychology.

16 U. "Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission" also  
17 referred to as "Commission" means: the national administration  
18 of which all Compact States are members.

19 V. "Receiving State" means: a Compact State where the  
20 client/patient is physically located when the  
21 telepsychological services are delivered.

22 W. "Rule" means: a written statement by the Psychology  
23 Interjurisdictional Compact Commission promulgated pursuant  
24 to Section XI of the Compact that is of general applicability,  
25 implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of  
26 the Compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice  
27 requirement of the Commission and has the force and effect of

1 statutory law in a Compact State, and includes the amendment,  
2 repeal or suspension of an existing rule.

3 X. "Significant Investigatory Information" means:

4 1. investigative information that a State Psychology  
5 Regulatory Authority, after a preliminary inquiry that  
6 includes notification and an opportunity to respond if  
7 required by state law, has reason to believe, if proven  
8 true, would indicate more than a violation of state  
9 statute or ethics code that would be considered more  
10 substantial than minor infraction; or

11 2. investigative information that indicates that the  
12 psychologist represents an immediate threat to public  
13 health and safety regardless of whether the psychologist  
14 has been notified and/or had an opportunity to respond.

15 Y. "State" means: a state, commonwealth, territory, or possession  
16 of the United States, the District of Columbia.

17 Z. "State Psychology Regulatory Authority" means: the Board,  
18 office or other agency with the legislative mandate to license  
19 and regulate the practice of psychology.

20 AA. "Telepsychology" means: the provision of psychological  
21 services using telecommunication technologies.

22 BB. "Temporary Authorization to Practice" means: a licensed  
23 psychologist's authority to conduct temporary in-person,  
24 face-to-face practice, within the limits authorized under this  
25 Compact, in another Compact State.

26 CC. "Temporary In-Person, Face-to-Face Practice" means: where a  
27 psychologist is physically present (not through the use of

1 telecommunications technologies), in the Distant State to  
2 provide for the practice of psychology for 30 days within a  
3 calendar year and based on notification to the Distant State.

4 ARTICLE III. HOME STATE LICENSURE

5 A. The Home State shall be a Compact State where a psychologist is  
6 licensed to practice psychology.

7 B. A psychologist may hold one or more Compact State licenses at a  
8 time. If the psychologist is licensed in more than one Compact  
9 State, the Home State is the Compact State where the  
10 psychologist is physically present when the services are  
11 delivered as authorized by the Authority to Practice  
12 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology under the terms of this  
13 Compact.

14 C. Any Compact State may require a psychologist not previously  
15 licensed in a Compact State to obtain and retain a license to be  
16 authorized to practice in the Compact State under  
17 circumstances not authorized by the Authority to Practice  
18 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology under the terms of this  
19 Compact.

20 D. Any Compact State may require a psychologist to obtain and  
21 retain a license to be authorized to practice in a Compact  
22 State under circumstances not authorized by Temporary  
23 Authorization to Practice under the terms of this Compact.

24 E. A Home State's license authorizes a psychologist to practice in  
25 a Receiving State under the Authority to Practice  
26 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology only if the Compact State:  
27 1. Currently requires the psychologist to hold an active



1        E.Passport;

2        2. Has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating  
3        complaints about licensed individuals;

4        3. Notifies the Commission, in compliance with the terms  
5        herein, of any adverse action or significant investigatory  
6        information regarding a licensed individual;

7        4. Requires an Identity History Summary of all applicants at  
8        initial licensure, including the use of the results of  
9        fingerprints or other biometric data checks compliant with  
10       the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
11       FBI, or other designee with similar authority, no later  
12       than ten years after activation of the Compact; and

13       5. Complies with the Bylaws and Rules of the Commission.

14 F. A Home State's license grants Temporary Authorization to  
15 Practice to a psychologist in a Distant State only if the  
16 Compact State:

17       1. Currently requires the psychologist to hold an active IPC;

18       2. Has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating  
19       complaints about licensed individuals;

20       3. Notifies the Commission, in compliance with the terms  
21       herein, of any adverse action or significant investigatory  
22       information regarding a licensed individual;

23       4. Requires an Identity History Summary of all applicants at  
24       initial licensure, including the use of the results of  
25       fingerprints or other biometric data checks compliant with  
26       the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
27       FBI, or other designee with similar authority, no later

1 than ten years after activation of the Compact; and

2 5. Complies with the Bylaws and Rules of the Commission.

3 ARTICLE IV. COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEPSYCHOLOGY

4 A. Compact States shall recognize the right of a psychologist,  
5 licensed in a Compact State in conformance with Article III, to  
6 practice telepsychology in other Compact States (Receiving  
7 States) in which the psychologist is not licensed, under the  
8 Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology as  
9 provided in the Compact.

10 B. To exercise the Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional  
11 Telepsychology under the terms and provisions of this Compact,  
12 a psychologist licensed to practice in a Compact State must:

13 1. Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an institute of  
14 higher education that was, at the time the degree was  
15 awarded:

16 a. Regionally accredited by an accrediting body  
17 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to  
18 grant graduate degrees, OR authorized by Provincial  
19 Statute or Royal Charter to grant doctoral degrees; OR

20 b. A foreign college or university deemed to be  
21 equivalent to 1 (a) above by a foreign credential  
22 evaluation service that is a member of the National  
23 Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES)  
24 or by a recognized foreign credential evaluation  
25 service; AND

26 2. Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets the  
27 following criteria:

- 1 a. The program, wherever it may be administratively  
2 housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a  
3 psychology program. Such a program must specify in  
4 pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its  
5 intent to educate and train professional  
6 psychologists;
- 7 b. The psychology program must stand as a recognizable,  
8 coherent, organizational entity within the  
9 institution;
- 10 c. There must be a clear authority and primary  
11 responsibility for the core and specialty areas  
12 whether or not the program cuts across administrative  
13 lines;
- 14 d. The program must consist of an integrated, organized  
15 sequence of study;
- 16 e. There must be an identifiable psychology faculty  
17 sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its  
18 responsibilities;
- 19 f. The designated director of the program must be a  
20 psychologist and a member of the core faculty;
- 21 g. The program must have an identifiable body of students  
22 who are matriculated in that program for a degree;
- 23 h. The program must include supervised practicum,  
24 internship, or field training appropriate to the  
25 practice of psychology;
- 26 i. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three  
27 academic years of full-time graduate study for

1           doctoral degree and a minimum of one academic year of  
2           full-time graduate study for master's degree;

3           j. The program includes an acceptable residency as  
4           defined by the Rules of the Commission.

5           3. Possess a current, full and unrestricted license to  
6           practice psychology in a Home State which is a Compact  
7           State;

8           4. Have no history of adverse action that violate the Rules of  
9           the Commission;

10          5. Have no criminal record history reported on an Identity  
11          History Summary that violates the Rules of the Commission;

12          6. Possess a current, active E.Passport;

13          7. Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended  
14          practice, conformity with standards of practice,  
15          competence in telepsychology technology; criminal  
16          background; and knowledge and adherence to legal  
17          requirements in the home and receiving states, and provide  
18          a release of information to allow for primary source  
19          verification in a manner specified by the Commission; and

20          8. Meet other criteria as defined by the Rules of the  
21          Commission.

22    C. The Home State maintains authority over the license of any  
23    psychologist practicing into a Receiving State under the  
24    Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology.

25    D. A psychologist practicing into a Receiving State under the  
26    Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology will  
27    be subject to the Receiving State's scope of practice. A

1 Receiving State may, in accordance with that state's due  
2 process law, limit or revoke a psychologist's Authority to  
3 Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology in the Receiving  
4 State and may take any other necessary actions under the  
5 Receiving State's applicable law to protect the health and  
6 safety of the Receiving State's citizens. If a Receiving State  
7 takes action, the state shall promptly notify the Home State  
8 and the Commission.

9 E. If a psychologist's license in any Home State, another Compact  
10 State, or any Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional  
11 Telepsychology in any Receiving State, is restricted,  
12 suspended or otherwise limited, the E.Passport shall be  
13 revoked and therefore the psychologist shall not be eligible to  
14 practice telepsychology in a Compact State under the Authority  
15 to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology.

16 ARTICLE V. COMPACT TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE

17 A. Compact States shall also recognize the right of a  
18 psychologist, licensed in a Compact State in conformance with  
19 Article III, to practice temporarily in other Compact States  
20 (Distant States) in which the psychologist is not licensed, as  
21 provided in the Compact.

22 B. To exercise the Temporary Authorization to Practice under the  
23 terms and provisions of this Compact, a psychologist licensed  
24 to practice in a Compact State must:

25 1. Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an institute of  
26 higher education that was, at the time the degree was  
27 awarded:

- 1 a. Regionally accredited by an accrediting body  
2 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to  
3 grant graduate degrees, OR authorized by Provincial  
4 Statute or Royal Charter to grant doctoral degrees; OR  
5 b. A foreign college or university deemed to be  
6 equivalent to 1 (a) above by a foreign credential  
7 evaluation service that is a member of the National  
8 Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES)  
9 or by a recognized foreign credential evaluation  
10 service; AND

11 2. Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets the  
12 following criteria:

- 13 a. The program, wherever it may be administratively  
14 housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a  
15 psychology program. Such a program must specify in  
16 pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its  
17 intent to educate and train professional  
18 psychologists;  
19 b. The psychology program must stand as a recognizable,  
20 coherent, organizational entity within the  
21 institution;  
22 c. There must be a clear authority and primary  
23 responsibility for the core and specialty areas  
24 whether or not the program cuts across administrative  
25 lines;  
26 d. The program must consist of an integrated, organized  
27 sequence of study;

- 1       e. There must be an identifiable psychology faculty  
2       sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its  
3       responsibilities;
- 4       f. The designated director of the program must be a  
5       psychologist and a member of the core faculty;
- 6       g. The program must have an identifiable body of students  
7       who are matriculated in that program for a degree;
- 8       h. The program must include supervised practicum,  
9       internship, or field training appropriate to the  
10       practice of psychology;
- 11       i. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of three  
12       academic years of full-time graduate study for  
13       doctoral degrees and a minimum of one academic year of  
14       full-time graduate study for master's degree;
- 15       j. The program includes an acceptable residency as  
16       defined by the Rules of the Commission.
- 17       3. Possess a current, full and unrestricted license to  
18       practice psychology in a Home State which is a Compact  
19       State;
- 20       4. No history of adverse action that violate the Rules of the  
21       Commission;
- 22       5. No criminal record history that violates the Rules of the  
23       Commission;
- 24       6. Possess a current, active IPC;
- 25       7. Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended  
26       practice and work experience and provide a release of  
27       information to allow for primary source verification in a

1 manner specified by the Commission; and

2 8. Meet other criteria as defined by the Rules of the  
3 Commission.

4 C. A psychologist practicing into a Distant State under the  
5 Temporary Authorization to Practice shall practice within the  
6 scope of practice authorized by the Distant State.

7 D. A psychologist practicing into a Distant State under the  
8 Temporary Authorization to Practice will be subject to the  
9 Distant State's authority and law. A Distant State may, in  
10 accordance with that state's due process law, limit or revoke a  
11 psychologist's Temporary Authorization to Practice in the  
12 Distant State and may take any other necessary actions under  
13 the Distant State's applicable law to protect the health and  
14 safety of the Distant State's citizens. If a Distant State  
15 takes action, the state shall promptly notify the Home State  
16 and the Commission.

17 E. If a psychologist's license in any Home State, another Compact  
18 State, or any Temporary Authorization to Practice in any  
19 Distant State, is restricted, suspended or otherwise limited,  
20 the IPC shall be revoked and therefore the psychologist shall  
21 not be eligible to practice in a Compact State under the  
22 Temporary Authorization to Practice.

23 ARTICLE VI. CONDITIONS OF TELEPSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE IN A RECEIVING  
24 STATE

25 A. A psychologist may practice in a Receiving State under the  
26 Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology only  
27 in the performance of the scope of practice for psychology as



1 assigned by an appropriate State Psychology Regulatory  
2 Authority, as defined in the Rules of the Commission, and under  
3 the following circumstances:

- 4 1. The psychologist initiates a client/patient contact in a  
5 Home State via telecommunications technologies with a  
6 client/patient in a Receiving State;  
7 2. Other conditions regarding telepsychology as determined by  
8 Rules promulgated by the Commission.

9 ARTICLE VII. ADVERSE ACTIONS

10 A. A Home State shall have the power to impose adverse action  
11 against a psychologist's license issued by the Home State. A  
12 Distant State shall have the power to take adverse action on a  
13 psychologist's Temporary Authorization to Practice within that  
14 Distant State.

15 B. A Receiving State may take adverse action on a psychologist's  
16 Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology  
17 within that Receiving State. A Home State may take adverse  
18 action against a psychologist based on an adverse action taken  
19 by a Distant State regarding temporary in-person, face-to-face  
20 practice.

21 C. If a Home State takes adverse action against a psychologist's  
22 license, that psychologist's Authority to Practice  
23 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology is terminated and the  
24 E.Passport is revoked. Furthermore, that psychologist's  
25 Temporary Authorization to Practice is terminated and the IPC  
26 is revoked.

- 27 1. All Home State disciplinary orders which impose adverse

1 action shall be reported to the Commission in accordance  
2 with the Rules promulgated by the Commission. A Compact  
3 State shall report adverse actions in accordance with the  
4 Rules of the Commission.

5 2. In the event discipline is reported on a psychologist, the  
6 psychologist will not be eligible for telepsychology or  
7 temporary in-person, face-to-face practice in accordance  
8 with the Rules of the Commission.

9 3. Other actions may be imposed as determined by the Rules  
10 promulgated by the Commission.

11 D. A Home State's Psychology Regulatory Authority shall  
12 investigate and take appropriate action with respect to  
13 reported inappropriate conduct engaged in by a licensee which  
14 occurred in a Receiving State as it would if such conduct had  
15 occurred by a licensee within the Home State. In such cases,  
16 the Home State's law shall control in determining any adverse  
17 action against a psychologist's license.

18 E. A Distant State's Psychology Regulatory Authority shall  
19 investigate and take appropriate action with respect to  
20 reported inappropriate conduct engaged in by a psychologist  
21 practicing under Temporary Authorization Practice which  
22 occurred in that Distant State as it would if such conduct had  
23 occurred by a licensee within the Home State. In such cases,  
24 Distant State's law shall control in determining any adverse  
25 action against a psychologist's Temporary Authorization to  
26 Practice.

27 F. Nothing in this Compact shall override a Compact State's

1 decision that a psychologist's participation in an alternative  
2 program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such  
3 participation shall remain non-public if required by the  
4 Compact State's law. Compact States must require psychologists  
5 who enter any alternative programs to not provide  
6 telepsychology services under the Authority to Practice  
7 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology or provide temporary  
8 psychological services under the Temporary Authorization to  
9 Practice in any other Compact State during the term of the  
10 alternative program.

11 G. No other judicial or administrative remedies shall be available  
12 to a psychologist in the event a Compact State imposes an  
13 adverse action pursuant to subsection C, above.

14 ARTICLE VIII. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN A COMPACT STATE'S  
15 PSYCHOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

16 A. In addition to any other powers granted under state law, a  
17 Compact State's Psychology Regulatory Authority shall have the  
18 authority under this Compact to:

19 1. Issue subpoenas, for both hearings and investigations,  
20 which require the attendance and testimony of witnesses  
21 and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a  
22 Compact State's Psychology Regulatory Authority for the  
23 attendance and testimony of witnesses, and/or the  
24 production of evidence from another Compact State shall be  
25 enforced in the latter state by any court of competent  
26 jurisdiction, according to that court's practice and  
27 procedure in considering subpoenas issued in its own

1 proceedings. The issuing State Psychology Regulatory  
2 Authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses,  
3 mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of  
4 the state where the witnesses and/or evidence are located;  
5 and

6 2. Issue cease and desist and/or injunctive relief orders to  
7 revoke a psychologist's Authority to Practice  
8 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology and/or Temporary  
9 Authorization to Practice.

10 3. During the course of any investigation, a psychologist may  
11 not change his/her Home State licensure. A Home State  
12 Psychology Regulatory Authority is authorized to complete  
13 any pending investigations of a psychologist and to take  
14 any actions appropriate under its law. The Home State  
15 Psychology Regulatory Authority shall promptly report the  
16 conclusions of such investigations to the Commission. Once  
17 an investigation has been completed, and pending the  
18 outcome of said investigation, the psychologist may change  
19 his/her Home State licensure. The Commission shall  
20 promptly notify the new Home State of any such decisions as  
21 provided in the Rules of the Commission. All information  
22 provided to the Commission or distributed by Compact  
23 States pursuant to the psychologist shall be confidential,  
24 filed under seal and used for investigatory or  
25 disciplinary matters. The Commission may create  
26 additional rules for mandated or discretionary sharing of  
27 information by Compact States.

1           ARTICLE IX. COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM

2 A. The Commission shall provide for the development and  
3 maintenance of a Coordinated Licensure Information System  
4 (Coordinated Database) and reporting system containing  
5 licensure and disciplinary action information on all  
6 psychologists individuals to whom this Compact is applicable  
7 in all Compact States as defined by the Rules of the  
8 Commission.

9 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the  
10 contrary, a Compact State shall submit a uniform data set to  
11 the Coordinated Database on all licensees as required by the  
12 Rules of the Commission, including:

- 13 1. Identifying information;
- 14 2. Licensure data;
- 15 3. Significant investigatory information;
- 16 4. Adverse actions against a psychologist's license;
- 17 5. An indicator that a psychologist's Authority to Practice  
18 Interjurisdictional Telepsychology and/or Temporary  
19 Authorization to Practice is revoked;
- 20 6. Non-confidential information related to alternative  
21 program participation information;
- 22 7. Any denial of application for licensure, and the reasons  
23 for such denial; and
- 24 8. Other information which may facilitate the administration  
25 of this Compact, as determined by the Rules of the  
26 Commission.

27 C. The Coordinated Database administrator shall promptly notify

1 all Compact States of any adverse action taken against, or  
2 significant investigative information on, any licensee in a  
3 Compact State.

4 D. Compact States reporting information to the Coordinated  
5 Database may designate information that may not be shared with  
6 the public without the express permission of the Compact State  
7 reporting the information.

8 E. Any information submitted to the Coordinated Database that is  
9 subsequently required to be expunged by the law of the Compact  
10 State reporting the information shall be removed from the  
11 Coordinated Database.

12 ARTICLE X. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL  
13 COMPACT COMMISSION

14 A. The Compact States hereby create and establish a joint public  
15 agency known as the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact  
16 Commission.

17 1. The Commission is a body politic and an instrumentality of  
18 the Compact States.

19 2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the  
20 Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a  
21 court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office  
22 of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive  
23 venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts  
24 or consents to participate in alternative dispute  
25 resolution proceedings.

26 3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver  
27 of sovereign immunity.

1 B. Membership, Voting, and Meetings

2 1. The Commission shall consist of one voting representative  
3 appointed by each Compact State who shall serve as that  
4 state's Commissioner. The State Psychology Regulatory  
5 Authority shall appoint its delegate. This delegate shall  
6 be empowered to act on behalf of the Compact State. This  
7 delegate shall be limited to:

8 a. Executive Director, Executive Secretary or similar  
9 executive;

10 b. Current member of the State Psychology Regulatory  
11 Authority of a Compact State; OR

12 c. Designee empowered with the appropriate delegate  
13 authority to act on behalf of the Compact State.

14 2. Any Commissioner may be removed or suspended from office as  
15 provided by the law of the state from which the  
16 Commissioner is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the  
17 Commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of  
18 the Compact State in which the vacancy exists.

19 3. Each Commissioner shall be entitled to one (1) vote with  
20 regard to the promulgation of Rules and creation of Bylaws  
21 and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in  
22 the business and affairs of the Commission. A Commissioner  
23 shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in  
24 the Bylaws. The Bylaws may provide for Commissioners'  
25 participation in meetings by telephone or other means of  
26 communication.

27 4. The Commission shall meet at least once during each

1 calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set  
2 forth in the Bylaws.

3 5. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice  
4 of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required  
5 under the rulemaking provisions in Article XI.

6 6. The Commission may convene in a closed, non-public meeting  
7 if the Commission must discuss:

8 a. Non-compliance of a Compact State with its obligations  
9 under the Compact;

10 b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other  
11 personnel matters, practices or procedures related to  
12 specific employees or other matters related to the  
13 Commission's internal personnel practices and  
14 procedures;

15 c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated  
16 litigation against the Commission;

17 d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of  
18 goods, services or real estate;

19 e. Accusation against any person of a crime or formally  
20 censuring any person;

21 f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial  
22 information which is privileged or confidential;

23 g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature where  
24 disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted  
25 invasion of personal privacy;

26 h. Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law  
27 enforcement purposes;



1 i. Disclosure of information related to any  
2 investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf of or  
3 for use of the Commission or other committee charged  
4 with responsibility for investigation or  
5 determination of compliance issues pursuant to the  
6 Compact; or

7 j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by  
8 federal and state statute.

9 7. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant  
10 to this provision, the Commission's legal counsel or  
11 designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and  
12 shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The  
13 Commission shall keep minutes which fully and clearly  
14 describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall  
15 provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, of  
16 any person participating in the meeting, and the reasons  
17 therefore, including a description of the views expressed.  
18 All documents considered in connection with an action  
19 shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and  
20 documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal,  
21 subject to release only by a majority vote of the  
22 Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

23 C. The Commission shall, by a majority vote of the Commissioners,  
24 prescribe Bylaws and/or Rules to govern its conduct as may be  
25 necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise  
26 the powers of the Compact, including but not limited to:

27 1. Establishing the fiscal year of the Commission;

1 2. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:

2 a. for the establishment and meetings of other  
3 committees; and

4 b. governing any general or specific delegation of any  
5 authority or function of the Commission;

6 3. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting  
7 meetings of the Commission, ensuring reasonable advance  
8 notice of all meetings and providing an opportunity for  
9 attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with  
10 enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's  
11 interest, the privacy of individuals of such proceedings,  
12 and proprietary information, including trade secrets. The  
13 Commission may meet in closed session only after a  
14 majority of the Commissioners vote to close a meeting to  
15 the public in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the  
16 Commission must make public a copy of the vote to close the  
17 meeting revealing the vote of each Commissioner with no  
18 proxy votes allowed;

19 4. Establishing the titles, duties and authority and  
20 reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of  
21 the Commission;

22 5. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the  
23 establishment of the personnel policies and programs of  
24 the Commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other  
25 similar law of any Compact State, the Bylaws shall  
26 exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of  
27 the Commission;

1 6. Promulgating a Code of Ethics to address permissible and  
2 prohibited activities of Commission members and  
3 employees;

4 7. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the  
5 Commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus  
6 funds that may exist after the termination of the Compact  
7 after the payment and/or reserving of all of its debts and  
8 obligations;

9 8. The Commission shall publish its Bylaws in a convenient  
10 form and file a copy thereof and a copy of any amendment  
11 thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer in each of  
12 the Compact States;

13 9. The Commission shall maintain its financial records in  
14 accordance with the Bylaws; and

15 10. The Commission shall meet and take such actions as are  
16 consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the  
17 Bylaws.

18 D. The Commission shall have the following powers:

19 1. The authority to promulgate uniform rules to facilitate  
20 and coordinate implementation and administration of this  
21 Compact. The rule shall have the force and effect of law  
22 and shall be binding in all Compact States;

23 2. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the  
24 name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any  
25 State Psychology Regulatory Authority or other regulatory  
26 body responsible for psychology licensure to sue or be  
27 sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

- 1     3. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
- 2     4. To borrow, accept or contract for services of personnel,  
3         including, but not limited to, employees of a Compact  
4         State;
- 5     5. To hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix  
6         compensation, define duties, grant such individuals  
7         appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the  
8         Compact, and to establish the Commission's personnel  
9         policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest,  
10        qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel  
11        matters;
- 12    6. To accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of  
13        money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to  
14        receive, utilize and dispose of the same; provided that at  
15        all times the Commission shall strive to avoid any  
16        appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;
- 17    7. To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations  
18        of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any  
19        property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all  
20        times the Commission shall strive to avoid any appearance  
21        of impropriety;
- 22    8. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,  
23        abandon or otherwise dispose of any property real,  
24        personal or mixed;
- 25    9. To establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 26    10. To borrow money;
- 27    11. To appoint committees, including advisory committees

1 comprised of Members, State regulators, State legislators  
2 or their representatives, and consumer representatives,  
3 and such other interested persons as may be designated in  
4 this Compact and the Bylaws;

5 12. To provide and receive information from, and to cooperate  
6 with, law enforcement agencies;

7 13. To adopt and use an official seal; and

8 14. To perform such other functions as may be necessary or  
9 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact  
10 consistent with the state regulation of psychology  
11 licensure, temporary in-person, face-to-face practice and  
12 telepsychology practice.

13 E. The Executive Board

14 The elected officers shall serve as the Executive Board, which  
15 shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission  
16 according to the terms of this Compact.

17 1. The Executive Board shall be comprised of six members:

18 a. Five voting members who are elected from the current  
19 membership of the Commission by the Commission;

20 b. One ex-officio, nonvoting member from the recognized  
21 membership organization composed of State and  
22 Provincial Psychology Regulatory Authorities.

23 2. The ex-officio member must have served as staff or member  
24 on a State Psychology Regulatory Authority and will be  
25 selected by its respective organization.

26 3. The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Board  
27 as provided in Bylaws.

1 4. The Executive Board shall meet at least annually.

2 5. The Executive Board shall have the following duties and  
3 responsibilities:

4 a. Recommend to the entire Commission changes to the  
5 Rules or Bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation,  
6 fees paid by Compact States such as annual dues, and  
7 any other applicable fees;

8 b. Ensure Compact administration services are  
9 appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

10 c. Prepare and recommend the budget;

11 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the  
12 Commission;

13 e. Monitor Compact compliance of member states and  
14 provide compliance reports to the Commission;

15 f. Establish additional committees as necessary; and

16 g. Other duties as provided in Rules or Bylaws.

17 F. Financing of the Commission

18 1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of the  
19 reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization  
20 and ongoing activities.

21 2. The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue  
22 sources, donations and grants of money, equipment,  
23 supplies, materials and services.

24 3. The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment  
25 from each Compact State or impose fees on other parties to  
26 cover the cost of the operations and activities of the  
27 Commission and its staff which must be in a total amount

1 sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each  
2 year for which revenue is not provided by other sources.  
3 The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated  
4 based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission  
5 which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all Compact  
6 States.

7 4. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind  
8 prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor  
9 shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of the  
10 Compact States, except by and with the authority of the  
11 Compact State.

12 5. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all  
13 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and  
14 disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the  
15 audit and accounting procedures established under its  
16 Bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds  
17 handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a  
18 certified or licensed public accountant and the report of  
19 the audit shall be included in and become part of the  
20 annual report of the Commission.

21 G. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

22 1. The members, officers, Executive Director, employees and  
23 representatives of the Commission shall be immune from  
24 suit and liability, either personally or in their official  
25 capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property  
26 or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or  
27 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission

1 that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is  
2 made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within  
3 the scope of Commission employment, duties or  
4 responsibilities; provided that nothing in this paragraph  
5 shall be construed to protect any such person from suit  
6 and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability  
7 caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct  
8 of that person.

9 2. The Commission shall defend any member, officer, Executive  
10 Director, employee or representative of the Commission in  
11 any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out  
12 of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that  
13 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties  
14 or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the  
15 claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing  
16 occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties  
17 or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be  
18 construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or  
19 her own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or  
20 alleged act, error or omission did not result from that  
21 person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

22 3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any  
23 member, officer, Executive Director, employee or  
24 representative of the Commission for the amount of any  
25 settlement or judgment obtained against that person  
26 arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission  
27 that occurred within the scope of Commission employment,



1 duties or responsibilities, or that such person had a  
2 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope  
3 of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities,  
4 provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission  
5 did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton  
6 misconduct of that person.

7 ARTICLE XI. RULEMAKING

8 A. The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to  
9 the criteria set forth in this Article and the Rules adopted  
10 thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the  
11 date specified in each rule or amendment.

12 B. If a majority of the legislatures of the Compact States rejects  
13 a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same  
14 manner used to adopt the Compact, then such rule shall have no  
15 further force and effect in any Compact State.

16 C. Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular  
17 or special meeting of the Commission.

18 D. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or Rules by  
19 the Commission, and at least sixty (60) days in advance of the  
20 meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon,  
21 the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

22 1. On the website of the Commission; and

23 2. On the website of each Compact States' Psychology  
24 Regulatory Authority or the publication in which each  
25 state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

26 E. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

27 1. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in

1 which the rule will be considered and voted upon;

2 2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason  
3 for the proposed rule;

4 3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any  
5 interested person; and

6 4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to  
7 the Commission of their intention to attend the public  
8 hearing and any written comments.

9 F. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall  
10 allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and  
11 arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

12 G. The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing  
13 before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested  
14 by:

15 1. At least twenty-five (25) persons who submit comments  
16 independently of each other;

17 2. A governmental subdivision or agency; or

18 3. A duly appointed person in an association that has having  
19 at least twenty-five (25) members.

20 H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the  
21 Commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the  
22 scheduled public hearing.

23 1. All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify  
24 the Executive Director of the Commission or other  
25 designated member in writing of their desire to appear and  
26 testify at the hearing not less than five (5) business days  
27 before the scheduled date of the hearing.

1 2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each  
2 person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable  
3 opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

4 3. No transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written  
5 request for a transcript is made, in which case the person  
6 requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of producing  
7 the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a  
8 transcript under the same terms and conditions as a  
9 transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the  
10 Commission from making a transcript or recording of the  
11 hearing if it so chooses.

12 4. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a  
13 separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the  
14 convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this  
15 section.

16 I. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of  
17 business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not  
18 held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral  
19 comments received.

20 J. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take  
21 final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the  
22 effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking  
23 record and the full text of the rule.

24 K. If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by  
25 interested parties is received, the Commission may proceed  
26 with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public  
27 hearing.

1 L. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may  
2 consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice,  
3 opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the usual  
4 rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in this  
5 section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as  
6 reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days  
7 after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this  
8 provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted  
9 immediately in order to:

- 10 1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or  
11 welfare;
- 12 2. Prevent a loss of Commission or Compact State funds;
- 13 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative  
14 rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
- 15 4. Protect public health and safety.

16 M. The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may  
17 direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for  
18 purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format,  
19 errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of  
20 any revisions shall be posted on the website of the Commission.  
21 The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a  
22 period of thirty (30) days after posting. The revision may be  
23 challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a  
24 material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in  
25 writing, and delivered to the Chair of the Commission prior to  
26 the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the  
27 revision will take effect without further action. If the

1 revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect  
2 without the approval of the Commission.

3 ARTICLE XII. OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT

4 A. Oversight

5 1. The Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of state  
6 government in each Compact State shall enforce this  
7 Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to  
8 effectuate the Compact's purposes and intent. The  
9 provisions of this Compact and the rules promulgated  
10 hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.

11 2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the Compact and  
12 the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in  
13 a Compact State pertaining to the subject matter of this  
14 Compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities or  
15 actions of the Commission.

16 3. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of  
17 process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to  
18 intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure  
19 to provide service of process to the Commission shall  
20 render a judgment or order void as to the Commission, this  
21 Compact or promulgated rules.

22 B. Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination

23 1. If the Commission determines that a Compact State has  
24 defaulted in the performance of its obligations or  
25 responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated  
26 rules, the Commission shall:

27 a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and

1           other Compact States of the nature of the default, the  
2           proposed means of remedying the default and/or any  
3           other action to be taken by the Commission; and

4           b. Provide remedial training and specific technical  
5           assistance regarding the default.

6           2. If a state in default fails to remedy the default, the  
7           defaulting state may be terminated from the Compact upon  
8           an affirmative vote of a majority of the Compact States,  
9           and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this  
10           Compact shall be terminated on the effective date of  
11           termination. A remedy of the default does not relieve the  
12           offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred  
13           during the period of default.

14           3. Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed  
15           only after all other means of securing compliance have  
16           been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate  
17           shall be submitted by the Commission to the Governor, the  
18           majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's  
19           legislature, and each of the Compact States.

20           4. A Compact State which has been terminated is responsible  
21           for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred  
22           through the effective date of termination, including  
23           obligations which extend beyond the effective date of  
24           termination.

25           5. The Commission shall not bear any costs incurred by the  
26           state which is found to be in default or which has been  
27           terminated from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing

1 between the Commission and the defaulting state.

2 6. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the  
3 Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the  
4 state of Georgia or the federal district where the Compact  
5 has its principal offices. The prevailing member shall be  
6 awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable  
7 attorney's fees.

8 C. Dispute Resolution

9 1. Upon request by a Compact State, the Commission shall  
10 attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact which  
11 arise among Compact States and between Compact and  
12 Non-Compact States.

13 2. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both  
14 mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes that  
15 arise before the commission.

16 D. Enforcement

17 1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its  
18 discretion, shall enforce the provisions and Rules of this  
19 Compact.

20 2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action  
21 in the United States District Court for the State of  
22 Georgia or the federal district where the Compact has its  
23 principal offices against a Compact State in default to  
24 enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and  
25 its promulgated Rules and Bylaws. The relief sought may  
26 include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event  
27 judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member

1 shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
2 reasonable attorney's fees.

3 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of  
4 the Commission. The Commission may pursue any other  
5 remedies available under federal or state law.

6 ARTICLE XIII. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSYCHOLOGY  
7 INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED RULES,  
8 WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENTS

9 A. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the  
10 Compact is enacted into law in the seventh Compact State. The  
11 provisions which become effective at that time shall be limited  
12 to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly  
13 and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the Commission  
14 shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the  
15 implementation and administration of the Compact.

16 B. Any state which joins the Compact subsequent to the  
17 Commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to  
18 the rules as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes  
19 law in that state. Any rule which has been previously adopted  
20 by the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on  
21 the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

22 C. Any Compact State may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a  
23 statute repealing the same.

24 1. A Compact State's withdrawal shall not take effect until  
25 six (6) months after enactment of the repealing statute.

26 2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of  
27 the withdrawing State's Psychology Regulatory Authority



1 to comply with the investigative and adverse action  
2 reporting requirements of this act prior to the effective  
3 date of withdrawal.

4 D. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to  
5 invalidate or prevent any psychology licensure agreement or  
6 other cooperative arrangement between a Compact State and a  
7 Non-Compact State which does not conflict with the provisions  
8 of this Compact.

9 E. This Compact may be amended by the Compact States. No amendment  
10 to this Compact shall become effective and binding upon any  
11 Compact State until it is enacted into the law of all Compact  
12 States.

13 ARTICLE XIV. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

14 This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the  
15 purposes thereof. If this Compact shall be held contrary to the  
16 constitution of any state member thereto, the Compact shall remain  
17 in full force and effect as to the remaining Compact States.

18 Sec. 501.602. RULES ADOPTED UNDER COMPACT. The Psychology  
19 Interjurisdictional Compact Commission established under the  
20 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact under Section 501.601 may  
21 not adopt rules that alter the requirements or scope of practice of  
22 a license issued under Chapter 501. Any rule adopted by the  
23 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission that purports to  
24 alter the requirements or scope of practice of a license issued  
25 under Chapter 501 is not enforceable.

26 Sec. 501.603. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION. (a) In  
27 reporting information to the Coordinated Licensure Information

1 System under Article IX of the Psychology Interjurisdictional  
2 Compact, the executive council may disclose personally  
3 identifiable information about a person who holds a license under  
4 this chapter, including the person's social security number.

5 (b) The Coordinated Licensure Information System may not  
6 share personally identifiable information with a state that is not  
7 a party to the compact unless the state agrees to not disclose that  
8 information to any other person.

9 SECTION 2.029. Sections 502.002(2) and (5), Occupations  
10 Code, are amended to read as follows:

11 (2) "Executive council" ["Commissioner"] means the  
12 Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council [~~commissioner of state~~  
13 ~~health services~~].

14 (5) "Licensed marriage and family therapist  
15 associate" means an individual who offers to provide marriage and  
16 family therapy for compensation under the supervision of a  
17 [~~board-approved~~] supervisor approved by the executive council.

18 SECTION 2.030. The heading to Section 502.053, Occupations  
19 Code, is amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 502.053. MEMBERSHIP [~~AND EMPLOYEE~~] RESTRICTIONS.

21 SECTION 2.031. Sections 502.053(b) and (c), Occupations  
22 Code, are amended to read as follows:

23 (b) A person may not be a member of the board [~~and may not be~~  
24 ~~a department employee employed in a "bona fide executive,~~  
25 ~~administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used~~  
26 ~~for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime~~  
27 ~~provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29~~

1 ~~U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.)~~] if:

2 (1) the person is an officer, employee, or paid  
3 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of health  
4 services; or

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

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

13 SECTION 2.032. Section 502.056(c), Occupations Code, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

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

25 SECTION 2.033. Section 502.059, Occupations Code, is  
26 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to  
27 read as follows:

1 (b) The training program must provide the person with  
2 information regarding:

3 (1) the law governing board operations [~~this chapter~~];  
4 (2) the programs, [operated by the board,  
5 [~~(3) the role and~~] functions, [of the board,  
6 [~~(4) the~~] rules, and [of the board, with an emphasis on  
7 the rules that relate to disciplinary and investigatory authority,

8 [~~(5) the current~~] budget of [for] the board;

9 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking  
10 authority of the board;

11 (4) [~~(6)~~] the results of the most recent formal audit  
12 of the board;

13 (5) [~~(7)~~] the requirements of:

14 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public  
15 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts  
16 [conflict] of interest; and

17 (B) other laws applicable to members of the board  
18 in performing their duties; and

19 (6) [~~(8)~~] any applicable ethics policies adopted by  
20 the board or the Texas Ethics Commission.

21 (d) The executive director of the executive council shall  
22 create a training manual that includes the information required by  
23 Subsection (b). The executive director shall distribute a copy of  
24 the training manual annually to each board member. On receipt of  
25 the training manual, each board member shall sign and submit to the  
26 executive director a statement acknowledging receipt of the  
27 training manual.

1 SECTION 2.034. The heading to Subchapter D, Chapter 502,  
2 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

3 SUBCHAPTER D. [~~BOARD~~] POWERS AND DUTIES

4 SECTION 2.035. Section 502.151, Occupations Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 502.151. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE  
7 COUNCIL [~~BOARD~~]. The executive council [~~board~~] shall:

8 (1) determine the qualifications and fitness of a  
9 license applicant under this chapter; and

10 (2) adopt a code of professional ethics for license  
11 holders.

12 SECTION 2.036. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Occupations Code,  
13 is amended by adding Section 502.1515 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 502.1515. BOARD DUTIES. The board shall propose to the  
15 executive council:

16 (1) rules regarding:

17 (A) the qualifications necessary to obtain a  
18 license, including rules limiting an applicant's eligibility for a  
19 license based on the applicant's criminal history;

20 (B) the scope of practice of and standards of  
21 care and ethical practice for marriage and family therapy; and

22 (C) continuing education requirements for  
23 license holders; and

24 (2) a schedule of sanctions for violations of this  
25 chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

26 SECTION 2.037. Section 502.155, Occupations Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

1           Sec. 502.155. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING EXAMINATION. The  
2 executive council [~~board~~] shall:

3                   (1) determine the times and places for licensing  
4 examinations;

5                   (2) offer examinations at least semiannually; and

6                   (3) give reasonable public notice of the examinations  
7 in the manner provided by executive council [~~board~~] rules.

8           SECTION 2.038. Section [502.159](#), Occupations Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10           Sec. 502.159. EX PARTE COMMUNICATION PROHIBITED. A [~~board~~]  
11 member of the executive council or an [~~department~~] employee of the  
12 executive council who [~~performs functions for the board and who~~] is  
13 assigned to make a decision, a finding of fact, or a conclusion of  
14 law in a proceeding pending before the executive council [~~board~~]  
15 may not directly or indirectly communicate with a party to the  
16 proceeding or the party's representative unless notice and an  
17 opportunity to participate are given to each party to the  
18 proceeding.

19           SECTION 2.039. Section [502.252](#), Occupations Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21           Sec. 502.252. LICENSE APPLICATION. (a) An applicant for a  
22 license must:

23                   (1) file a written application with the executive  
24 council [~~board~~] on a form prescribed by the executive council  
25 [~~board~~]; and

26                   (2) pay the appropriate application fee.

27                   (b) To qualify for a license as a licensed marriage and

1 family therapist associate, a person must:

2 (1) be at least 18 years of age;

3 (2) have completed a graduate internship in marriage  
4 and family therapy, or an equivalent internship, as approved by the  
5 executive council [~~board~~];

6 (3) pass the license examination and jurisprudence  
7 examination required under this chapter [~~determined by the board~~];

8 (4) hold a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and  
9 family therapy or in a related mental health field with coursework  
10 and training determined by the executive council [~~board~~] to be  
11 substantially equivalent to a graduate degree in marriage and  
12 family therapy from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
13 education or an institution of higher education approved by the  
14 executive council [~~board~~];

15 (5) [~~be of good moral character,~~

16 [~~(6)~~] have not been convicted of a felony or a crime  
17 involving moral turpitude;

18 (6) [~~(7)~~] not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that  
19 affects the applicant's professional competency;

20 (7) [~~(8)~~] not have had a license or certification  
21 revoked by a licensing agency or by a certifying professional  
22 organization; and

23 (8) [~~(9)~~] not have engaged in fraud or deceit in  
24 applying for a license under this chapter.

25 (c) An applicant is eligible to apply for a license as a  
26 licensed marriage and family therapist if the person:

27 (1) meets the requirements of Subsection (b);

1 (2) after receipt of a degree described by Subsection  
2 (b)(4), has completed two years of work experience in marriage and  
3 family therapist services that includes at least 3,000 hours of  
4 clinical practice consisting of ~~[which:~~

5 ~~[(A)]~~ at least 1,500 hours ~~[consist]~~ of direct  
6 clinical services, including a minimum number of ~~[, and~~

7 ~~[(B) at least 750]~~ hours providing ~~[consist of]~~  
8 direct clinical services to couples or families as required by  
9 executive council rule; and

10 (3) has completed, in a manner acceptable to the  
11 executive council ~~[board]~~, at least 200 hours of supervised  
12 provision of direct clinical services by the applicant, 100 hours  
13 of which must be supervised on an individual basis.

14 SECTION 2.040. Sections 502.253(a), (b), and (c),  
15 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The executive council ~~[board]~~ shall investigate each  
17 application and any other information submitted by the applicant.

18 (b) Not later than the 90th day after the date the executive  
19 council ~~[board]~~ receives the completed application from a person  
20 seeking a license as a licensed marriage and family therapist  
21 associate, the executive council ~~[board]~~ shall notify the applicant  
22 whether the application has been accepted or rejected.

23 (c) An applicant for a license as a licensed marriage and  
24 family therapist associate is eligible to take the examination if  
25 the applicant:

26 (1) is enrolled in a graduate internship described by  
27 Section 502.252(b)(2) and provides proof to the executive council



1 ~~[board]~~ that the applicant is a student in good standing in an  
2 educational program described by Section 502.252(b)(4); or

3 (2) has completed the internship described by  
4 Subdivision (1).

5 SECTION 2.041. Sections 502.254(b) and (d), Occupations  
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (b) An applicant for a license as a licensed marriage and  
8 family therapist associate under Section 502.252(b) must:

9 (1) file an application on a form prescribed by the  
10 executive council ~~[board]~~ not later than the 90th day before the  
11 date of the examination; and

12 (2) pay the examination fee [~~set by the executive~~  
13 ~~commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission by rule~~].

14 (d) The executive council ~~[board]~~ shall have any written  
15 portion of an examination validated by an independent testing  
16 professional.

17 SECTION 2.042. Section 502.2541, Occupations Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 502.2541. JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION. (a) The  
20 executive council ~~[board]~~ shall develop and administer at least  
21 twice each calendar year a jurisprudence examination to determine  
22 an applicant's knowledge of this chapter, ~~[board]~~ rules adopted  
23 under this chapter, and any other applicable laws of this state  
24 affecting the applicant's practice of marriage and family therapy.

25 (b) The executive council ~~[board]~~ shall adopt rules to  
26 implement this section, including rules related to the development  
27 and administration of the examination, examination fees,

1 guidelines for reexamination, grading the examination, and  
2 providing notice of examination results.

3 SECTION 2.043. Section 502.2545, Occupations Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 502.2545. WAIVER OF EXAMINATION FOR CERTAIN  
6 APPLICANTS. (a) The executive council [~~board~~] may waive the  
7 requirement that an applicant for a license as a licensed marriage  
8 and family therapist pass the examination required by Section  
9 502.254 if the applicant:

10 (1) is a provisional license holder under Section  
11 502.259 and the executive council [~~board~~] determines that the  
12 applicant possesses sufficient education and professional  
13 experience to receive a license without further examination; or

14 (2) holds a license issued by another licensing agency  
15 in a profession related to the practice of marriage and family  
16 therapy and the executive council [~~board~~] determines that the  
17 applicant possesses sufficient education and professional  
18 experience to receive a license without satisfying the examination  
19 requirements of this chapter.

20 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] may adopt rules necessary  
21 to administer this section, including rules under Subsection (a)(2)  
22 prescribing the professions that are related to the practice of  
23 marriage and family therapy.

24 SECTION 2.044. Section 502.257, Occupations Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 502.257. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE. The executive council  
27 [~~board~~] shall issue a license as a licensed marriage and family

1 therapist associate or licensed marriage and family therapist, as  
2 appropriate, to an applicant who:

- 3 (1) complies with the requirements of this chapter;
- 4 (2) passes the licensing examination, unless the  
5 executive council [~~board~~] exempts the person from the examination  
6 requirement; and
- 7 (3) pays the required fees.

8 SECTION 2.045. Section 502.258(a), Occupations Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] by rule may provide for  
11 the issuance of a temporary license.

12 SECTION 2.046. Section 502.259, Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 502.259. PROVISIONAL LICENSE. (a) The executive  
15 council [~~board~~] may grant a provisional license to practice as a  
16 marriage and family therapist in this state without examination to  
17 an applicant who is licensed or otherwise registered as a marriage  
18 and family therapist by another state or jurisdiction if the  
19 requirements to be licensed or registered in the other state or  
20 jurisdiction were, on the date the person was licensed or  
21 registered, substantially equal to the requirements of this  
22 chapter.

23 (b) An applicant for a provisional license must:

- 24 (1) be licensed in good standing as a marriage and  
25 family therapist in another state or jurisdiction that has  
26 licensing requirements that are substantially equal to the  
27 requirements of this chapter;

1 (2) have passed a national or other examination that:

2 (A) is recognized by the executive council  
3 [~~board~~]; and

4 (B) relates to marriage and family therapy; and

5 (3) be sponsored by a person licensed by the executive  
6 council [~~board~~] with whom the provisional license holder may  
7 practice under this section.

8 (c) An applicant may be excused from the requirement of  
9 Subsection (b)(3) if the executive council [~~board~~] determines that  
10 compliance with that subsection constitutes a hardship to the  
11 applicant.

12 (d) A provisional license is valid until the date the  
13 executive council [~~board~~] approves or denies the provisional  
14 license holder's application for a license under Section 502.257.  
15 The executive council [~~board~~] shall complete processing of a  
16 provisional license holder's application for a license not later  
17 than the 180th day after the date the provisional license is issued.  
18 The executive council [~~board~~] may extend this period to allow for  
19 the receipt and tabulation of pending examination results.

20 (e) The executive council [~~board~~] shall issue a license  
21 under Section 502.257 to a provisional license holder if:

22 (1) the provisional license holder passes the  
23 examination required by Section 502.254;

24 (2) the executive council [~~board~~] verifies that the  
25 provisional license holder satisfies the academic and experience  
26 requirements of this chapter; and

27 (3) the provisional license holder satisfies any other

1 license requirements under this chapter.

2 SECTION 2.047. Sections 502.260(a), (b), and (d),  
3 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

4 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] may place a license  
5 holder's license under this chapter on inactive status if the  
6 holder is not actively engaged in the practice of marriage and  
7 family therapy and the holder submits a written request to the  
8 executive council [~~board~~] before the expiration of the holder's  
9 license.

10 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall maintain a list of  
11 each license holder whose license is on inactive status.

12 (d) The executive council [~~board~~] shall remove the license  
13 holder's license from inactive status if the person:

14 (1) notifies the executive council [~~board~~] in writing  
15 that the person intends to return to active practice;

16 (2) pays an administrative fee; and

17 (3) complies with educational or other requirements  
18 the executive council [~~board~~] adopts by rule.

19 SECTION 2.048. Section 502.261(b), Occupations Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (b) Each license holder shall notify the executive council  
22 [~~board~~] of the license holder's current address.

23 SECTION 2.049. Section 502.301(a), Occupations Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (a) A license issued under this chapter is subject to  
26 biennial renewal. The executive council [~~board~~] shall adopt a  
27 system under which licenses expire on various dates during the

1 year.

2 SECTION 2.050. The heading to Subchapter H, Chapter 502,  
3 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 SUBCHAPTER H. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS [~~AND PROCEDURES~~]

5 SECTION 2.051. Section 502.351, Occupations Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 502.351. GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS. The  
8 executive council [board] shall take disciplinary action under  
9 Subchapter G, Chapter 507, against [reprimand] a license holder  
10 who [~~, place on probation a person whose license has been suspended,~~  
11 ~~refuse to renew a person's license, or suspend or revoke a holder's~~  
12 ~~license if the person]~~:

13 (1) is convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral  
14 turpitude or a felony;

15 (2) obtains or attempts to obtain a license by fraud or  
16 deception;

17 (3) uses drugs or alcohol to an extent that affects the  
18 license holder's professional competence;

19 (4) performs professional duties in a grossly  
20 negligent manner;

21 (5) is adjudicated as mentally incompetent by a court;

22 (6) practices in a manner that is detrimental to the  
23 public health or welfare;

24 (7) advertises in a manner that tends to deceive or  
25 defraud the public;

26 (8) has a license or certification revoked by a  
27 licensing agency or a certifying professional organization;

1 (9) violates this chapter or a rule or code of ethics  
2 adopted under this chapter; or

3 (10) commits an act for which liability exists under  
4 Chapter 81, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

5 SECTION 2.052. Section 502.357, Occupations Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 502.357. GROUNDS FOR REFUSING RENEWAL. The executive  
8 council [~~board~~] may refuse to renew the license of a person who  
9 fails to pay an administrative penalty imposed under Subchapter H,  
10 Chapter 507, [~~±~~] unless enforcement of the penalty is stayed or a  
11 court has ordered that the administrative penalty is not owed.

12 SECTION 2.053. Section 502.358, Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 502.358. REFUND. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), the  
15 executive council [~~board~~] may order a license holder to pay a refund  
16 to a consumer as provided in an agreement resulting from an informal  
17 settlement conference instead of or in addition to imposing an  
18 administrative penalty under Subchapter H, Chapter 507 [~~this~~  
19 ~~chapter~~].

20 (b) The amount of a refund ordered as provided in an  
21 agreement resulting from an informal settlement conference may not  
22 exceed the amount the consumer paid to the license holder for a  
23 service regulated by this chapter. The executive council [~~board~~]  
24 may not require payment of other damages or estimate harm in a  
25 refund order.

26 SECTION 2.054. The heading to Subchapter J, Chapter 502,  
27 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER J. CRIMINAL PENALTY [~~OTHER PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT~~  
2 ~~PROVISIONS~~]

3 SECTION 2.055. Section 503.002(2), Occupations Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (2) "Executive council" [~~"Department"~~] means the  
6 Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council [~~Department of State~~  
7 ~~Health Services~~].

8 SECTION 2.056. The heading to Section 503.104, Occupations  
9 Code, is amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 503.104. MEMBERSHIP [~~AND EMPLOYEE~~] RESTRICTIONS.

11 SECTION 2.057. Sections 503.104(b) and (c), Occupations  
12 Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (b) A person may not be a member of the board [~~and may not be~~  
14 ~~a department employee employed in a "bona fide executive,~~  
15 ~~administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used~~  
16 ~~for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime~~  
17 ~~provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29~~  
18 ~~U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.)~~] if:

19 (1) the person is an officer, employee, manager, or  
20 paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of health  
21 care; or

22 (2) the person's spouse is an officer, manager, or paid  
23 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of mental  
24 health.

25 (c) A person may not be a member of the board [~~or act as the~~  
26 ~~general counsel to the board or the department~~] if the person is  
27 required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government



1 Code, because of the person's activities for compensation on behalf  
2 of a profession related to the operation of the board.

3 SECTION 2.058. Section 503.107(c), Occupations Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (c) If the executive director of the executive council has  
6 knowledge that a potential ground for removal exists, the executive  
7 director shall notify the presiding officer of the board of the  
8 potential ground. The presiding officer shall then notify the  
9 governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for  
10 removal exists. If the potential ground for removal involves the  
11 presiding officer, the executive director shall notify the next  
12 highest ranking officer of the board, who shall then notify the  
13 governor and attorney general that a potential ground for removal  
14 exists.

15 SECTION 2.059. Section 503.110, Occupations Code, is  
16 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to  
17 read as follows:

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

- 20 (1) the law governing board operations;  
21 (2) [this chapter and] the [board's] programs,  
22 functions, rules, and budget of the board;  
23 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking  
24 authority of the board;  
25 (4) [+2] the results of the most recent formal audit  
26 of the board;  
27 (5) [+3] the requirements of:

1            (A) laws relating to open meetings, public  
2 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing  
3 conflicts-of-interest; and

4            (B) other laws applicable to members of the board  
5 in performing their duties; and

6            (6) [~~4~~] any applicable ethics policies adopted by  
7 the board or the Texas Ethics Commission.

8            (d) The executive director of the executive council shall  
9 create a training manual that includes the information required by  
10 Subsection (b). The executive director shall distribute a copy of  
11 the training manual annually to each board member. On receipt of  
12 the training manual, each board member shall sign and submit to the  
13 executive director a statement acknowledging receipt of the  
14 training manual.

15            SECTION 2.060. The heading to Subchapter E, Chapter 503,  
16 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

17            SUBCHAPTER E. [~~BOARD~~] POWERS AND DUTIES

18            SECTION 2.061. Section 503.201, Occupations Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20            Sec. 503.201. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE  
21 COUNCIL. (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall:

22            (1) determine the qualifications and fitness of an  
23 applicant for a license, license renewal, or provisional license;

24            (2) examine for, deny, approve, issue, revoke,  
25 suspend, suspend on an emergency basis, place on probation, and  
26 renew the license of an applicant or license holder under this  
27 chapter;

1           (3) adopt and publish a code of ethics; and  
2           (4) by rule adopt a list of authorized counseling  
3 methods or practices that a license holder may undertake or  
4 perform[~~, and~~  
5           ~~[(5) adopt an official seal].~~

6           (b) The executive council [~~board~~] may request and shall  
7 receive the assistance of a state educational institution or other  
8 state agency.

9           SECTION 2.062. Subchapter E, Chapter 503, Occupations Code,  
10 is amended by adding Section 503.2015 to read as follows:

11           Sec. 503.2015. BOARD DUTIES. The board shall propose to the  
12 executive council:

- 13           (1) rules regarding:  
14                   (A) the qualifications necessary to obtain a  
15 license, including rules limiting an applicant's eligibility for a  
16 license based on the applicant's criminal history;  
17                   (B) the scope of practice of and standards of  
18 care and ethical practice for professional counseling; and  
19                   (C) continuing education requirements for  
20 license holders; and  
21           (2) a schedule of sanctions for violations of this  
22 chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

23           SECTION 2.063. Section 503.302, Occupations Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25           Sec. 503.302. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE. (a) A person  
26 qualifies for a license under this chapter if the person:

- 27           (1) is at least 18 years old;

1           (2) has a master's or doctoral degree in counseling or  
2 a related field;

3           (3) has successfully completed a graduate degree at a  
4 regionally accredited institution of higher education and the  
5 number of graduate semester hours required by executive council  
6 ~~[board]~~ rule, which may not be less than 48 hours and must include  
7 300 clock hours of supervised practicum that:

8                   (A) is primarily counseling in nature; and

9                   (B) meets the specific academic course content  
10 and training standards established by the executive council  
11 ~~[board]~~;

12           (4) has completed the number of supervised experience  
13 hours required by executive council ~~[board]~~ rule, which may not be  
14 less than 3,000 hours working in a counseling setting that meets the  
15 requirements established by the executive council ~~[board]~~ after the  
16 completion of the graduate program described by Subdivision (3);

17           (5) ~~[except as provided by Subsection (b),]~~ passes the  
18 license examination and jurisprudence examination required by this  
19 chapter;

20           (6) submits an application as required by the  
21 executive council ~~[board]~~, accompanied by the required application  
22 fee; and

23           (7) meets any other requirement prescribed by the  
24 executive council ~~[board]~~.

25           (b) ~~[(d)]~~ In establishing the standards described by  
26 Subsection (a)(3)(B), the executive council ~~[board]~~ shall review  
27 and consider the standards as developed by the appropriate

1 professional association.

2 (c) [~~(e)~~] The executive council [~~board~~] may require the  
3 statements on a license application to be made under oath.

4 SECTION 2.064. Section 503.303(b), Occupations Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall accept an  
7 individual course from an art therapy program accredited through  
8 the American Art Therapy Association as satisfying the education  
9 requirements under Section 503.302(a)(3) if at least 75 percent of  
10 the course content is substantially equivalent to the content of a  
11 course required by executive council [~~board~~] rule.

12 SECTION 2.065. Section 503.304, Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 503.304. REVIEW OF APPLICATION. (a) Not later than  
15 the 30th day before the examination date, after investigation of a  
16 license application and review of other evidence submitted, the  
17 executive council [~~board~~] shall notify the applicant that the  
18 application and evidence submitted are:

- 19 (1) satisfactory and accepted; or  
20 (2) unsatisfactory and rejected.

21 (b) If the executive council [~~board~~] rejects an  
22 application, the executive council [~~board~~] shall state in the  
23 notice the reasons for the rejection.

24 SECTION 2.066. Section 503.305, Occupations Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 503.305. LICENSE EXAMINATION. (a) The executive  
27 council [~~board~~] shall administer examinations to determine the

1 competence of qualified applicants at least twice each calendar  
2 year.

3 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall contract with a  
4 nationally recognized testing organization to develop and  
5 administer a written professional counselor licensing examination  
6 to applicants who apply for a license under this chapter.

7 SECTION 2.067. Section 503.3055, Occupations Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 503.3055. JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION. (a) The  
10 executive council [~~board~~] shall develop and administer at least  
11 twice each calendar year a jurisprudence examination to determine  
12 an applicant's knowledge of this chapter, executive council [~~board~~]  
13 rules, and any other applicable laws of this state affecting the  
14 applicant's professional counseling practice.

15 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall adopt rules to  
16 implement this section, including rules related to the development  
17 and administration of the examination, examination fees,  
18 guidelines for reexamination, grading the examination, and  
19 providing notice of examination results.

20 SECTION 2.068. Section 503.308, Occupations Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 503.308. TEMPORARY LICENSE. (a) The executive  
23 council [~~board~~] by rule may provide for the issuance of a temporary  
24 license. Rules adopted under this subsection must provide a time  
25 limit for the period a temporary license is valid.

26 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] by rule may adopt a system  
27 under which a temporary license may be issued to a person who:

1 (1) meets all of the academic requirements for  
2 licensing; and

3 (2) enters into a supervisory agreement with a  
4 supervisor approved by the executive council [~~board~~].

5 SECTION 2.069. Sections 503.310(a), (c), and (d),  
6 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (a) On application and payment of applicable fees, the  
8 executive council [~~board~~] may issue a provisional license to a  
9 person who holds a license as a counselor or art therapist issued by  
10 another state or by a jurisdiction acceptable to the executive  
11 council [~~board~~].

12 (c) An applicant is not required to comply with Subsection  
13 (b)(3) if the executive council [~~board~~] determines that compliance  
14 with that subsection is a hardship to the applicant.

15 (d) A provisional license is valid until the date the  
16 executive council [~~board~~] approves or denies the provisional  
17 license holder's application for a license under Section 503.311.

18 SECTION 2.070. Section 503.311, Occupations Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 503.311. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE TO PROVISIONAL LICENSE  
21 HOLDER. (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall issue a license to  
22 the holder of a provisional license who applies for a license if:

23 (1) the executive council [~~board~~] verifies that the  
24 applicant has the academic and experience requirements for a  
25 regular license under this chapter; and

26 (2) the applicant satisfies any other license  
27 requirements under this chapter.

1 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] must complete the  
2 processing of a provisional license holder's application for a  
3 license not later than the later of:

4 (1) the 180th day after the date the provisional  
5 license is issued; or

6 (2) the date licenses are issued following completion  
7 of the next licensing and jurisprudence examinations  
8 [~~examination~~].

9 SECTION 2.071. Sections [503.312](#)(a) and (c), Occupations  
10 Code, are amended to read as follows:

11 (a) On request of a person licensed under this chapter, the  
12 executive council [~~board~~] shall place the person's license on  
13 inactive status.

14 (c) A person whose license is inactive may apply to  
15 reactivate the license. The executive council [~~board~~] shall  
16 reactivate the license if the applicant:

17 (1) pays a license fee;

18 (2) is not in violation of this chapter when the  
19 applicant applies to reactivate the license; and

20 (3) fulfills the requirements provided by executive  
21 council [~~board~~] rule for the holder of an inactive license.

22 SECTION 2.072. Section [503.313](#), Occupations Code, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Sec. 503.313. RETIREMENT STATUS. The executive council  
25 [~~board~~] by rule may adopt a system for placing a person licensed  
26 under this chapter on retirement status.

27 SECTION 2.073. Section [503.314](#)(b), Occupations Code, is



1 amended to read as follows:

2 (b) A license certificate issued by the executive council  
3 [~~board~~] is the property of the executive council [~~board~~] and must be  
4 surrendered on demand.

5 SECTION 2.074. Section 503.351, Occupations Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 503.351. RENEWAL; ELIGIBILITY. A person licensed  
8 under this chapter may renew the license biennially if the person:

9 (1) is not in violation of this chapter when the person  
10 applies for renewal; and

11 (2) fulfills the continuing education requirements  
12 established by the executive council [~~board~~].

13 SECTION 2.075. Section 503.352, Occupations Code, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Sec. 503.352. LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE. The executive  
16 council [~~board~~] shall adopt a system under which licenses expire on  
17 various dates during the year. On renewal of the license on the  
18 expiration date, the total license renewal fee is payable.

19 SECTION 2.076. Section 503.353, Occupations Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Sec. 503.353. NOTICE OF LICENSE EXPIRATION. Not later than  
22 the 30th day before the expiration date of a person's license, the  
23 executive council [~~board~~] shall send written notice of the  
24 impending license expiration to the person at the person's last  
25 known address according to the executive council's [~~board's~~]  
26 records.

27 SECTION 2.077. The heading to Subchapter I, Chapter 503,

1 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

2 SUBCHAPTER I. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS [~~PROCEDURES~~]

3 SECTION 2.078. Section 503.401(a), Occupations Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (a) A person licensed under this chapter is subject to  
6 disciplinary action under Subchapter G, Chapter 507, [~~this section~~]  
7 if the person:

8 (1) violates this chapter or a rule or code of ethics  
9 adopted under this chapter [~~by the board~~];

10 (2) commits an act for which the license holder would  
11 be liable under Chapter 81, Civil Practice and Remedies Code;

12 (3) is legally committed to an institution because of  
13 mental incompetence from any cause; or

14 (4) directly or indirectly offers to pay or agrees to  
15 accept remuneration to or from any person for securing or  
16 soliciting a patient or patronage.

17 SECTION 2.079. Section 503.407, Occupations Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 503.407. REFUND. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), the  
20 executive council [~~board~~] may order a license holder to pay a refund  
21 to a consumer as provided in an agreement resulting from an informal  
22 settlement conference instead of or in addition to imposing an  
23 administrative penalty under Subchapter H, Chapter 507 [~~this~~  
24 ~~chapter~~].

25 (b) The amount of a refund ordered as provided in an  
26 agreement resulting from an informal settlement conference may not  
27 exceed the amount the consumer paid to the license holder for a

1 service regulated by this chapter. The executive council [~~board~~]  
2 may not require payment of other damages or estimate harm in a  
3 refund order.

4 SECTION 2.080. Section 503.453, Occupations Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 503.453. REPORT OF ALLEGED OFFENSE. The executive  
7 council [~~board~~] shall notify the appropriate prosecuting attorney  
8 of an alleged offense committed under this chapter.

9 SECTION 2.081. Section 505.002, Occupations Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Sec. 505.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

12 (1) [~~(2)~~] "Board" means the Texas State Board of  
13 Social Worker Examiners.

14 (2) [~~(3)~~] "Council on Social Work Education" means the  
15 national organization that is primarily responsible for the  
16 accreditation of schools of social work in the United States or its  
17 successor approved by the executive council [~~board~~].

18 (3) "Executive council" means the Texas Behavioral  
19 Health Executive Council.

20 (4) [~~"Department" means the Department of State Health~~  
21 ~~Services.~~

22 [~~(4-a)~~] "Licensed baccalaureate social worker" means  
23 a person who holds a baccalaureate social worker license issued [~~by~~  
24 ~~the board~~] under this chapter.

25 (5) [~~(4-b)~~] "Licensed clinical social worker" means a  
26 person who holds a clinical social worker license issued [~~by the~~  
27 ~~board~~] under this chapter.

1           (6) [~~(5)~~] "Licensed master social worker" means a  
2 person who holds a master social worker license issued [~~by the~~  
3 ~~board~~] under this chapter.

4           (7) [~~(6)~~] "Licensed social worker" means a person who  
5 holds a social worker license issued [~~by the board~~] under this  
6 chapter.

7           (8) [~~(9)~~] "Social worker" means a person who holds any  
8 license issued [~~by the board~~] under this chapter.

9           SECTION 2.082. Section 505.102(b), Occupations Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11           (b) A person is not eligible for appointment as a public  
12 member of the board if:

13                 (1) the person is registered, certified, or licensed  
14 by an occupational regulatory agency in the field of health care;

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

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

19                         (A) is employed by or participates in the  
20 management of a business entity or other organization regulated by  
21 or receiving funds from the board or executive council  
22 [~~department~~];

23                         (B) owns or controls, directly or indirectly,  
24 more than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other  
25 organization regulated by or receiving funds from the board or  
26 executive council [~~department~~]; or

27                         (C) uses or receives a substantial amount of

1 tangible goods, services, or funds from the board or executive  
2 council [~~department~~], other than compensation or reimbursement  
3 authorized by law for board membership, attendance, or expenses.

4 SECTION 2.083. The heading to Section 505.103, Occupations  
5 Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 505.103. MEMBERSHIP [~~AND EMPLOYEE~~] RESTRICTIONS.

7 SECTION 2.084. Sections 505.103(b) and (c), Occupations  
8 Code, are amended to read as follows:

9 (b) A person may not be a member of the board [~~and may not be~~  
10 ~~an employee of the department employed in a "bona fide executive,~~  
11 ~~administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used~~  
12 ~~for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime~~  
13 ~~provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29~~  
14 ~~U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.)~~] if:

15 (1) the person is an officer, employee, or paid  
16 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of health care;  
17 or

18 (2) the person's spouse is an officer, manager, or paid  
19 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of mental  
20 health.

21 (c) A person may not be a member of the board [~~or act as~~  
22 ~~general counsel to the board or the department~~] if the person is  
23 required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government  
24 Code, because of the person's activities for compensation on behalf  
25 of a profession related to the operation of the board.

26 SECTION 2.085. Section 505.109, Occupations Code, is  
27 amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) The training program must provide the person with  
3 information regarding:

4 (1) the law governing [~~legislation that created the~~  
5 board operations;

6 (2) [~~and~~] the [~~board's~~] programs, functions, rules,  
7 and budget of the board;

8 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking  
9 authority of the board;

10 (4) [~~(2)~~] the results of the most recent formal audit  
11 of the board;

12 (5) [~~(3)~~] the requirements of:

13 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public  
14 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of  
15 interest; and

16 (B) other laws applicable to members of the board  
17 in performing their duties; and

18 (6) [~~(4)~~] any applicable ethics policies adopted by  
19 the board or the Texas Ethics Commission.

20 (d) The executive director of the executive council shall  
21 create a training manual that includes the information required by  
22 Subsection (b). The executive director shall distribute a copy of  
23 the training manual annually to each board member. On receipt of  
24 the training manual, each board member shall sign and submit to the  
25 executive director a statement acknowledging receipt of the  
26 training manual.

27 SECTION 2.086. Section [505.201](#), Occupations Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2           Sec. 505.201. GENERAL RULEMAKING AND ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY  
3 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. (a) The executive council [~~board~~] may:

4                   (1) adopt and enforce rules necessary to perform the  
5 executive council's [~~board's~~] duties under this chapter;

6                   (2) establish standards of conduct and ethics for  
7 license holders; and

8                   (3) ensure strict compliance with and enforcement of  
9 this chapter.

10           (b) [~~In adopting rules under this section, the board shall~~  
11 ~~consider the rules and procedures of the department. The board~~  
12 ~~shall adopt procedural rules, which may not be inconsistent with~~  
13 ~~similar rules and procedures of the department.~~

14           [~~(c)~~] The executive council [~~board~~] by rule may define a  
15 term not defined under Section 505.002 if a definition is necessary  
16 to administer or enforce this chapter.

17           (c) [~~(e)~~] For each type of license issued under this  
18 chapter, the executive council [~~board~~] shall establish:

19                   (1) the minimum eligibility requirements;

20                   (2) educational requirements;

21                   (3) professional experience criteria;

22                   (4) supervision requirements; and

23                   (5) independent practice criteria.

24           (d) [~~(f)~~] The executive council [~~board~~] shall establish  
25 procedures for recognition of independent practice.

26           SECTION 2.087. Subchapter D, Chapter 505, Occupations Code,  
27 is amended by adding Section 505.2015 to read as follows:

1        Sec. 505.2015. BOARD DUTIES. The board shall propose to the  
2 executive council:

3            (1) rules regarding:

4            (A) the qualifications necessary to obtain a  
5 license or order of recognition of specialty, including rules  
6 limiting an applicant's eligibility for a license or order based on  
7 the applicant's criminal history;

8            (B) the scope of practice of and standards of  
9 care and ethical practice for social work; and

10           (C) continuing education requirements for  
11 license holders or holders of orders of recognition of specialty;  
12 and

13           (2) a schedule of sanctions for violations of this  
14 chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

15        SECTION 2.088. Section 505.206, Occupations Code, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17        Sec. 505.206. ROSTER OF INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS. The  
18 executive council [~~board~~] shall publish a roster of persons  
19 recognized under Section 505.307 as qualified for the independent  
20 practice of social work.

21        SECTION 2.089. Section 505.301, Occupations Code, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23        Sec. 505.301. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIALTY AREA. (a) The  
24 executive council [~~board~~] may establish within the scope of social  
25 work practice and this chapter specialty areas of social work for  
26 license holders under this chapter who are licensed in good  
27 standing if establishment of the specialty areas:



1 (1) is necessary to promote the public interest; and  
2 (2) assists the public in identifying qualified  
3 persons in a social work practice specialty.

4 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] may not authorize a  
5 specialty area within the practice of social work unless the  
6 executive council [~~board~~] sets the minimum qualifications for  
7 social work practice with appropriate supervision and examination,  
8 as determined by the executive council [~~board~~].

9 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] may not establish a  
10 specialty area of social work or a specialty area identification  
11 that conflicts with a state licensing law.

12 SECTION 2.090. Section 505.302(a), Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (a) In establishing a specialty area of social work, the  
15 executive council [~~board~~] shall:

- 16 (1) define the scope of the specialty;  
17 (2) establish qualifications for specialty area  
18 practitioners that describe, in accordance with Subdivision (1),  
19 the scope of the specialty area;  
20 (3) adopt rules of conduct to ensure strict compliance  
21 with and enforcement of this chapter; and  
22 (4) adopt rules for the suspension or revocation of an  
23 order of recognition of specialty.

24 SECTION 2.091. Sections 505.303(a) and (c), Occupations  
25 Code, are amended to read as follows:

26 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall establish a  
27 specialty area for the practice of clinical social work that is

1 available only to a licensed master social worker who satisfies the  
2 minimum number of years of active social work practice with  
3 appropriate supervision and clinical examination, as determined by  
4 the executive council [~~board~~].

5 (c) For purposes of Subchapter C, Chapter 1451, Insurance  
6 Code:

7 (1) a person recognized as qualified for the  
8 independent practice of clinical social work may use the title  
9 "Licensed Clinical Social Worker" or another title approved by the  
10 executive council [~~board~~]; and

11 (2) a [~~board-approved~~] title approved by the executive  
12 council under this subsection has the same meaning and effect as the  
13 title "Licensed Clinical Social Worker."

14 SECTION 2.092. Section 505.304, Occupations Code, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Sec. 505.304. ORDER OF RECOGNITION OF SPECIALTY. (a) The  
17 executive council [~~board~~] shall prescribe the name, design, and  
18 content of an order of recognition of specialty.

19 (b) An order of recognition of specialty must:

20 (1) state the full name of the person recognized in the  
21 order; and

22 (2) state the official specialty serial number [~~+~~  
23 [~~(3) include the presiding officer's signature, and~~  
24 [~~(4) include the board's official seal~~].

25 SECTION 2.093. Section 505.305, Occupations Code, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 505.305. RECOGNITION OF SPECIALTY; ISSUANCE OF ORDER.

1 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall recognize a social worker  
2 as qualified for the practice of a specialty area of social work if  
3 the social worker satisfies the recognition requirements  
4 established by the executive council [~~board~~] and the executive  
5 council [~~board~~] determines that the person is worthy of the public  
6 trust in performing services within the scope of the specialty  
7 area.

8 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall issue an order of  
9 recognition of specialty to a social worker who is recognized as  
10 qualified for the practice of a specialty area of social work. The  
11 order of recognition of specialty evidences the state's recognition  
12 of the social worker as a specialty social work practitioner under  
13 the identification or title designated by the executive council  
14 [~~board~~].

15 SECTION 2.094. Section 505.306, Occupations Code, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 505.306. PROHIBITED USE OF SPECIALTY AREA  
18 IDENTIFICATION OR TITLE. If the executive council [~~board~~]  
19 establishes a specialty area of social work, a social worker may not  
20 use the specialty area identification or title designated by the  
21 executive council [~~board~~] unless the person is recognized as  
22 qualified for the practice of the specialty area under this  
23 chapter.

24 SECTION 2.095. Section 505.307, Occupations Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 505.307. INDEPENDENT PRACTICE RECOGNITION; MINIMUM  
27 QUALIFICATIONS. (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall establish

1 procedures for recognizing a social worker qualified for the  
2 independent practice of social work.

3 (b) A social worker may not be recognized as qualified for  
4 the independent practice of social work unless the person satisfies  
5 the requirements of social work education, experience, and  
6 supervision as determined by the executive council [~~board~~].

7 SECTION 2.096. Section 505.352, Occupations Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 505.352. LICENSE APPLICATION. A person may apply for a  
10 license under this chapter by submitting an application to the  
11 executive council [~~board~~]. The application must:

12 (1) be on a form prescribed by the executive council  
13 [~~board~~]; and

14 (2) contain statements made under oath regarding the  
15 applicant's education and experience and any other information  
16 required by the executive council [~~board~~] that qualifies the  
17 applicant for a license.

18 SECTION 2.097. Section 505.353, Occupations Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 505.353. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible for a  
21 license under this chapter, an applicant must:

22 (1) be at least 18 years of age;

23 (2) be worthy of the public trust and confidence;

24 (3) satisfy the education and experience requirements  
25 under this section; and

26 (4) pass the licensing examination conducted by the  
27 executive council [~~board~~] under Section 505.354 and the

1 jurisprudence examination conducted by the executive council  
2 [~~board~~] under Section 505.3545.

3 (b) An applicant may take the licensing examination  
4 conducted by the executive council [~~board~~] under Section 505.354  
5 for:

6 (1) a master social worker license if the applicant  
7 possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from a  
8 graduate program that is accredited by or is in candidacy for  
9 accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education;

10 (2) a baccalaureate social worker license if the  
11 applicant possesses a baccalaureate degree in social work from an  
12 educational program that is accredited by or is in candidacy for  
13 accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education; or

14 (3) a clinical social worker license if the applicant  
15 possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from an  
16 accredited graduate program approved by the executive council  
17 [~~board~~] and meets the qualifications for clinical social work  
18 practice as determined by the executive council [~~board~~] under this  
19 chapter.

20 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] may require an applicant  
21 to submit documentary evidence of the quality, scope, and nature of  
22 the applicant's experience and competence to:

23 (1) determine the credibility and acceptability of the  
24 applicant's professional or technical experience or competence;  
25 and

26 (2) ensure the public safety, health, and welfare.

27 SECTION 2.098. Sections 505.354(a), (b), and (e),

1 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

2 (a) The executive council [~~board~~], at least once each  
3 calendar year, shall prepare and administer an examination to  
4 assess an applicant's qualifications for a license under this  
5 chapter.

6 (b) Each license examination shall be conducted in a manner  
7 that is determined by the executive council [~~board~~] and is fair and  
8 impartial to each applicant and school or system of social work.

9 (e) The executive council [~~board~~] shall have the written  
10 portion of the examination, if any, validated by an independent  
11 testing entity.

12 SECTION 2.099. Section [505.3545](#), Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 505.3545. JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION. (a) The  
15 executive council [~~board~~] shall develop and administer at least  
16 twice each calendar year a jurisprudence examination to determine  
17 an applicant's knowledge of this chapter, [~~board~~] rules adopted  
18 under this chapter, and any other applicable laws of this state  
19 affecting the applicant's social work practice.

20 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall adopt rules to  
21 implement this section, including rules related to the development  
22 and administration of the examination, examination fees,  
23 guidelines for reexamination, grading the examination, and  
24 providing notice of examination results.

25 SECTION 2.100. Section [505.357\(a\)](#), Occupations Code, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall issue a temporary

1 license to an applicant who:

2 (1) has not taken the licensing examination under  
3 Section 505.354 or the jurisprudence examination under Section  
4 505.3545; and

5 (2) satisfies the requirements for obtaining a license  
6 under this chapter other than passing the licensing and  
7 jurisprudence examinations.

8 SECTION 2.101. Section 505.3575, Occupations Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 505.3575. ISSUANCE OF LICENSES TO CERTAIN OUT-OF-STATE  
11 APPLICANTS. (a) Notwithstanding any other licensing requirement  
12 of this subchapter:

13 (1) the executive council [~~board~~] may not require an  
14 applicant who is licensed in good standing in another state to pass  
15 a licensing examination conducted by the executive council [~~board~~]  
16 under Section 505.354 if an applicant with substantially equivalent  
17 experience who resides in this state would not be required to take  
18 the licensing examination; and

19 (2) the executive council [~~board~~] may issue a license  
20 to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state to  
21 independently practice social work if:

22 (A) after an assessment, the executive council  
23 [~~board~~] determines that the applicant:

24 (i) demonstrates sufficient experience and  
25 competence;

26 (ii) has passed the jurisprudence  
27 examination conducted by the executive council [~~board~~] under

1 Section 505.3545; and

2 (iii) at the time of the application, is in  
3 good standing with the regulatory agency of the state in which the  
4 applicant is licensed; and

5 (B) the applicant presents to the executive  
6 council [~~board~~] credentials that the applicant obtained from a  
7 national accreditation organization and the executive council  
8 [~~board~~] determines that the requirements to obtain the credentials  
9 are sufficient to minimize any risk to public safety.

10 (b) When assessing the experience and competence of an  
11 applicant for the purposes of this section, the executive council  
12 [~~board~~] may take into consideration any supervision received by the  
13 applicant in another state or jurisdiction if the executive council  
14 [~~board~~] determines that the supervision would be taken into  
15 consideration for the purpose of licensing or certification in the  
16 state or jurisdiction in which the applicant received the  
17 supervision.

18 SECTION 2.102. Section 505.358, Occupations Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 505.358. PROVISIONAL LICENSE. (a) A person may apply  
21 for a provisional license as a social worker by paying the  
22 appropriate fee and filing an application with the executive  
23 council [~~board~~]. The executive council [~~board~~] may issue a  
24 provisional license to a person who meets the requirements of this  
25 section.

26 (b) An applicant for a provisional license must:

27 (1) be licensed or certified in good standing as a



1 social worker in another state or jurisdiction that has licensing  
2 or certification requirements determined by the executive council  
3 [~~board~~] to be substantially equivalent to the requirements of this  
4 chapter;

5 (2) have passed a national or other examination  
6 recognized by the executive council [~~board~~] relating to the  
7 practice of social work; and

8 (3) be sponsored by a person licensed under this  
9 chapter with whom the provisional license holder may practice  
10 social work.

11 (c) An applicant is not required to comply with Subsection  
12 (b)(3) if the executive council [~~board~~] determines that compliance  
13 constitutes a hardship to the applicant.

14 (d) A provisional license is valid until the date the  
15 executive council [~~board~~] approves or denies the provisional  
16 license holder's application for a license under Section 505.359.

17 SECTION 2.103. Section 505.359, Occupations Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 505.359. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE TO PROVISIONAL LICENSE  
20 HOLDER. (a) The executive council [~~board~~] shall issue an  
21 appropriate license to a provisional license holder:

22 (1) who passes the licensing examination under Section  
23 505.354 and the jurisprudence examination under Section 505.3545;

24 (2) for whom the executive council [~~board~~] verifies  
25 that the person satisfies the academic and experience requirements  
26 under Section 505.353; and

27 (3) who satisfies any other license requirements under

1 this chapter.

2 (b) The executive council [~~board~~] shall complete the  
3 processing of a provisional license holder's application for a  
4 license not later than the 180th day after the date the provisional  
5 license is issued or the date licenses are issued after successful  
6 completion of the next licensing and jurisprudence examinations,  
7 whichever date is later.

8 (c) The executive council [~~board~~] may waive a license  
9 requirement for an applicant who is licensed or certified in  
10 another state if this state has entered into a reciprocity  
11 agreement with that state.

12 SECTION 2.104. Section 505.401(a-1), Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (a-1) The executive council [~~board~~] by rule shall adopt a  
15 system under which licenses and orders of recognition of specialty  
16 expire on various dates during the year.

17 SECTION 2.105. Section 505.405, Occupations Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 505.405. GROUNDS FOR REFUSING RENEWAL. The executive  
20 council [~~board~~] may refuse to renew the license of a person who  
21 fails to pay an administrative penalty imposed under Subchapter H,  
22 Chapter 507, [~~\*~~] unless enforcement of the penalty is stayed or a  
23 court has ordered that the administrative penalty is not owed.

24 SECTION 2.106. The heading to Subchapter I, Chapter 505,  
25 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

26 SUBCHAPTER I. [~~DENIAL OF LICENSE OR ORDER AND~~] DISCIPLINARY ACTION

27 [~~PROCEDURES~~]

1 SECTION 2.107. Section 505.451, Occupations Code, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Sec. 505.451. GROUNDS FOR [~~DENIAL OF LICENSE OR ORDER OF~~  
4 ~~RECOGNITION OF SPECIALTY;~~] DISCIPLINARY ACTION. The executive  
5 council [~~board~~] shall take disciplinary action under Subchapter G,  
6 Chapter 507, against a person [~~deny an application for a license or~~  
7 ~~order of recognition of specialty and shall revoke or suspend,~~  
8 ~~including a suspension on an emergency basis, a license or order,~~  
9 ~~place a holder of a license or order that has been suspended on~~  
10 ~~probation, refuse to renew a person's license, or reprimand a~~  
11 ~~holder of a license or order~~] for:

12 (1) violating this chapter or a rule adopted [~~by the~~  
13 ~~board~~] under this chapter;

14 (2) circumventing or attempting to circumvent the  
15 requirements of this chapter or a rule adopted [~~by the board~~] under  
16 this chapter;

17 (3) directly or indirectly participating in a scheme  
18 to evade the requirements of this chapter or a rule adopted [~~by the~~  
19 ~~board~~] under this chapter;

20 (4) engaging in unethical conduct;

21 (5) engaging in conduct that discredits or tends to  
22 discredit the social work profession;

23 (6) performing an act, allowing an omission, or making  
24 an assertion or representation that is fraudulent, deceitful, or  
25 misleading or that tends to create a misleading impression;

26 (7) knowingly associating with or permitting the use  
27 of a license holder's professional services or identification in

1 connection with an enterprise that the person knows or should have  
2 known in the exercise of reasonable diligence violates this chapter  
3 or a rule adopted [~~by the board~~] under this chapter;

4 (8) knowingly associating with or permitting the use  
5 of a license holder's name, professional services or  
6 identification, or endorsement in connection with an enterprise  
7 that the person knows or should have known in the exercise of  
8 reasonable diligence is a trade, business, or professional practice  
9 of a fraudulent, deceitful, or misleading nature;

10 (9) directly or indirectly revealing or causing to be  
11 revealed a confidential communication transmitted to the license  
12 holder by a client or other recipient of the license holder's  
13 services unless revealing the communication is required by law;

14 (10) having been denied an application for a license  
15 or certificate to practice social work in another jurisdiction for  
16 a reason that the executive council [~~board~~] determines would be a  
17 violation of this chapter or a rule adopted [~~by the board~~] under  
18 this chapter;

19 (11) holding a license or certificate in another  
20 jurisdiction that is suspended or revoked for a reason that the  
21 executive council [~~board~~] determines would be a violation of this  
22 chapter or a rule adopted [~~by the board~~] under this chapter;

23 (12) having been convicted of a felony in this state,  
24 another state, or the United States;

25 (13) refusing to perform an act or service within the  
26 scope of the license holder's license solely because of the  
27 recipient's age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or

1 political affiliation; or

2 (14) committing an act for which liability exists  
3 under Chapter 81, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

4 SECTION 2.108. Section 505.454(a), Occupations Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (a) A person who holds an expired license or order of  
7 recognition of specialty under this chapter is subject to a  
8 sanction under this chapter if the executive council [~~board~~]  
9 determines that the person violated this chapter or a rule adopted  
10 [~~by the board~~] under this chapter during the period in which the  
11 license or order was valid.

12 SECTION 2.109. Section 505.458, Occupations Code, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 505.458. REFUND. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), the  
15 executive council [~~board~~] may order a license holder to pay a refund  
16 to a consumer as provided in an agreement resulting from an informal  
17 settlement conference instead of or in addition to imposing an  
18 administrative penalty under this chapter.

19 (b) The amount of a refund ordered as provided in an  
20 agreement resulting from an informal settlement conference may not  
21 exceed the amount the consumer paid to the license holder for a  
22 service regulated by this chapter. The executive council [~~board~~]  
23 may not require payment of other damages or estimate harm in a  
24 refund order.

25 SECTION 2.110. Section 505.505, Occupations Code, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 505.505. APPEAL BOND NOT REQUIRED. The executive

1 council [~~board or department~~] is not required to post an appeal bond  
2 in any action arising under this chapter.

3 SECTION 2.111. Section 505.506, Occupations Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 505.506. REPRESENTATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL. The  
6 attorney general shall represent the executive council [~~board or~~  
7 ~~department~~] in an action brought to enforce this chapter.

8 SECTION 2.112. The following provisions of the Occupations  
9 Code are repealed:

- 10 (1) Section 501.002(3);
- 11 (2) Section 501.005;
- 12 (3) Subchapter C, Chapter 501;
- 13 (4) Sections 501.151(a) and (b);
- 14 (5) Section 501.152;
- 15 (6) Section 501.154;
- 16 (7) Section 501.156;
- 17 (8) Section 501.157;
- 18 (9) Section 501.160;
- 19 (10) Section 501.161;
- 20 (11) Section 501.162;
- 21 (12) Subchapter E, Chapter 501;
- 22 (13) Sections 501.252(b), (c), and (d);
- 23 (14) Section 501.254;
- 24 (15) Sections 501.256(e), (f), and (g);
- 25 (16) Section 501.2561;
- 26 (17) Section 501.257;
- 27 (18) Section 501.258;

- 1 (19) Section 501.261(b);
- 2 (20) Section 501.302;
- 3 (21) Section 501.303;
- 4 (22) Section 501.304;
- 5 (23) Section 501.402;
- 6 (24) Section 501.403;
- 7 (25) Section 501.404;
- 8 (26) Section 501.405;
- 9 (27) Section 501.406;
- 10 (28) Section 501.409;
- 11 (29) Section 501.410;
- 12 (30) Subchapter J, Chapter 501;
- 13 (31) Section 501.501;
- 14 (32) Section 501.502;
- 15 (33) Section 501.504;
- 16 (34) Section 502.002(3);
- 17 (35) Section 502.003;
- 18 (36) Subchapter C, Chapter 502;
- 19 (37) Section 502.152;
- 20 (38) Section 502.153;
- 21 (39) Section 502.154;
- 22 (40) Section 502.156;
- 23 (41) Section 502.1565;
- 24 (42) Section 502.157;
- 25 (43) Section 502.158;
- 26 (44) Section 502.161;
- 27 (45) Section 502.162;

- 1 (46) Section 502.163;
- 2 (47) Subchapter E, Chapter 502;
- 3 (48) Section 502.255;
- 4 (49) Section 502.256;
- 5 (50) Sections 502.301(b), (c), (d), and (e);
- 6 (51) Section 502.302;
- 7 (52) Section 502.303;
- 8 (53) Section 502.352;
- 9 (54) Section 502.353;
- 10 (55) Section 502.354;
- 11 (56) Section 502.355;
- 12 (57) Section 502.356;
- 13 (58) Subchapter I, Chapter 502;
- 14 (59) Section 502.451;
- 15 (60) Section 502.452;
- 16 (61) Section 502.453;
- 17 (62) Section 502.455;
- 18 (63) Section 503.005;
- 19 (64) Subchapter D, Chapter 503;
- 20 (65) Section 503.202;
- 21 (66) Section 503.203;
- 22 (67) Section 503.204;
- 23 (68) Section 503.2045;
- 24 (69) Section 503.205;
- 25 (70) Section 503.207;
- 26 (71) Section 503.209;
- 27 (72) Section 503.210;



- 1 (73) Section 503.211;
- 2 (74) Subchapter F, Chapter 503;
- 3 (75) Section 503.306;
- 4 (76) Section 503.307;
- 5 (77) Section 503.354;
- 6 (78) Section 503.355;
- 7 (79) Section 503.356;
- 8 (80) Sections 503.401(b), (c), and (d);
- 9 (81) Section 503.402;
- 10 (82) Section 503.403;
- 11 (83) Section 503.404;
- 12 (84) Section 503.405;
- 13 (85) Section 503.406;
- 14 (86) Section 503.451;
- 15 (87) Section 503.454;
- 16 (88) Subchapter K, Chapter 503;
- 17 (89) Section 505.005;
- 18 (90) Section 505.110;
- 19 (91) Subchapter C, Chapter 505;
- 20 (92) Section 505.202;
- 21 (93) Section 505.203;
- 22 (94) Section 505.204;
- 23 (95) Section 505.205;
- 24 (96) Section 505.209;
- 25 (97) Section 505.210;
- 26 (98) Section 505.211;
- 27 (99) Subchapter E, Chapter 505;

- 1 (100) Section 505.355;
- 2 (101) Section 505.356;
- 3 (102) Section 505.402;
- 4 (103) Section 505.403;
- 5 (104) Section 505.404;
- 6 (105) Section 505.452;
- 7 (106) Section 505.453;
- 8 (107) Section 505.454(b);
- 9 (108) Section 505.455;
- 10 (109) Section 505.456;
- 11 (110) Section 505.457;
- 12 (111) Section 505.501;
- 13 (112) Section 505.503;
- 14 (113) Section 505.504;
- 15 (114) Section 505.508; and
- 16 (115) Subchapter K, Chapter 505.

17 ARTICLE 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

18 SECTION 3.001. Article 66.104(a), Code of Criminal  
19 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

20 (a) The Texas Medical Board, the Texas Department of  
21 Licensing and Regulation, only with respect to a person licensed  
22 under Chapter 202, Occupations Code [~~State Board of Podiatric~~  
23 ~~Medical Examiners~~], the State Board of Dental Examiners, the Texas  
24 State Board of Pharmacy, the Texas Behavioral Health Executive  
25 Council, only with respect to a person licensed under Chapter 501,  
26 Occupations Code [~~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~], and  
27 the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners shall provide to

1 the Department of Public Safety through electronic means, magnetic  
2 tape, or disk, as specified by the department, a list of each person  
3 licensed by the respective agency, including the person's name and  
4 date of birth and any other personal descriptive information  
5 required by the department. Each agency shall update the  
6 information and submit the updated information quarterly to the  
7 department.

8 SECTION 3.002. Section 411.122(d), Government Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (d) The following state agencies are subject to this  
11 section:

12 (1) Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification  
13 Board;

14 (2) Texas Board of Architectural Examiners;

15 (3) Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners;

16 (4) State Board of Dental Examiners;

17 (5) Texas Board of Professional Engineers;

18 (6) Texas Funeral Service Commission;

19 (7) Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists;

20 (8) Health and Human Services Commission [~~Department~~  
21 ~~of State Health Services~~], except as provided by Section 411.110,  
22 and agencies attached to the commission [~~department, including:~~

23 [~~(A) Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage~~  
24 ~~and Family Therapists,~~

25 [~~(B) Texas State Board of Examiners of~~  
26 ~~Professional Counselors, and~~

27 [~~(C) Texas State Board of Social Worker~~

1 ~~Examiners~~];

2 (9) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying;

3 (10) Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation,  
4 except as provided by Section 411.093;

5 (11) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

6 (12) Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners;

7 (13) Texas Optometry Board;

8 (14) Texas State Board of Pharmacy;

9 (15) Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners;

10 (16) Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners;

11 (17) [~~Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical~~  
12 ~~Examiners~~];

13 [~~(18)~~] Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council  
14 [~~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~];

15 (18) [~~(19)~~] Texas Real Estate Commission;

16 (19) [~~(20)~~] Texas Department of Transportation;

17 (20) [~~(21)~~] State Board of Veterinary Medical  
18 Examiners;

19 (21) [~~(22)~~] Texas Department of Housing and Community  
20 Affairs;

21 (22) [~~(23)~~] secretary of state;

22 (23) [~~(24)~~] state fire marshal;

23 (24) [~~(25)~~] Texas Education Agency;

24 (25) [~~(26)~~] Department of Agriculture; and

25 (26) [~~(27)~~] Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

26 SECTION 3.003. Section 2054.2606(a), Government Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The following licensing entities shall establish a  
2 profile system consisting of the specific license holder  
3 information prescribed by Subsection (c):

4 (1) Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, with  
5 respect to chiropractors;

6 (2) Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
7 [~~State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners~~], with respect to  
8 podiatrists;

9 (3) State Board of Dental Examiners, with respect to  
10 dentists;

11 (4) Texas Optometry Board, with respect to  
12 optometrists and therapeutic optometrists;

13 (5) Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, with  
14 respect to physical therapists and physical therapy facilities;

15 (6) Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners,  
16 with respect to occupational therapists and occupational therapy  
17 facilities;

18 (7) Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council [~~State~~  
19 ~~Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~], with respect to  
20 psychologists; and

21 (8) Texas State Board of Pharmacy, with respect to  
22 pharmacists and pharmacies.

23 SECTION 3.004. Section [2054.352](#)(a), Government Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (a) The following licensing entities shall participate in  
26 the system established under Section [2054.353](#):

27 (1) Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners;

- 1 (2) Judicial Branch Certification Commission;
- 2 (3) State Board of Dental Examiners;
- 3 (4) Texas Funeral Service Commission;
- 4 (5) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying;
- 5 (6) Texas Medical Board;
- 6 (7) Texas Board of Nursing;
- 7 (8) Texas Optometry Board;
- 8 (9) Department of Agriculture, for licenses issued
- 9 under Chapter 1951, Occupations Code;
- 10 (10) Texas State Board of Pharmacy;
- 11 (11) Executive Council of Physical Therapy and
- 12 Occupational Therapy Examiners;
- 13 (12) Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners;
- 14 (13) [~~Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical~~
- 15 ~~Examiners,~~
- 16 [~~(14)~~] Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council
- 17 [~~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~];
- 18 (14) [~~(15)~~] State Board of Veterinary Medical
- 19 Examiners;
- 20 (15) [~~(16)~~] Texas Real Estate Commission;
- 21 (16) [~~(17)~~] Texas Appraiser Licensing and
- 22 Certification Board;
- 23 (17) [~~(18)~~] Texas Department of Licensing and
- 24 Regulation;
- 25 (18) [~~(19)~~] Texas State Board of Public Accountancy;
- 26 (19) [~~(20)~~] State Board for Educator Certification;
- 27 (20) [~~(21)~~] Texas Board of Professional Engineers;

1           (21) Health and Human Services Commission

2 [~~(22) Department of State Health Services~~];

3           (22) [~~(23)~~] Texas Board of Architectural Examiners;

4           (23) [~~(24)~~] Texas Racing Commission;

5           (24) [~~(25)~~] Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; and

6           (25) [~~(26)~~] Texas Private Security Board.

7           SECTION 3.005. Section 36.132(a)(2), Human Resources Code,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9           (2) "Licensing authority" means:

10                   (A) the Texas Medical Board;

11                   (B) the State Board of Dental Examiners;

12                   (C) the Texas Behavioral Health Executive  
13 Council [~~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~];

14                   (D) [~~the Texas State Board of Social Worker~~  
15 ~~Examiners~~];

16                   [~~(E)~~] the Texas Board of Nursing;

17                   (E) [~~(F)~~] the Texas Board of Physical Therapy  
18 Examiners;

19                   (F) [~~(G)~~] the Texas Board of Occupational  
20 Therapy Examiners; or

21                   (G) [~~(H)~~] another state agency authorized to  
22 regulate a provider who receives or is eligible to receive payment  
23 for a health care service under the Medicaid program.

24           SECTION 3.006. Sections 1451.001(9), (10), (11), (18), and  
25 (19), Insurance Code, are amended to read as follows:

26           (9) "Licensed clinical social worker" means an  
27 individual licensed [~~by the Texas State Board of Social Worker~~

1 ~~Examiners]~~ as a [~~licensed~~] clinical social worker under Chapter  
2 505, Occupations Code.

3 (10) "Licensed professional counselor" means an  
4 individual licensed under Chapter 503, Occupations Code [~~by the~~  
5 ~~Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors~~].

6 (11) "Marriage and family therapist" means an  
7 individual licensed under Chapter 502, Occupations Code [~~by the~~  
8 ~~Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists~~].

9 (18) "Psychological associate" means an individual  
10 licensed as a psychological associate by the Texas Behavioral  
11 Health Executive Council [~~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~  
12 ~~who practices solely under the supervision of a licensed~~  
13 ~~psychologist~~].

14 (19) "Psychologist" means an individual licensed as a  
15 psychologist by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council  
16 [~~State Board of Examiners of Psychologists~~].

17 SECTION 3.007. Section 101.002, Occupations Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 101.002. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL. The council consists  
20 of 14 members, with one member appointed by each of the following:

- 21 (1) the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners;
- 22 (2) the State Board of Dental Examiners;
- 23 (3) the Texas Optometry Board;
- 24 (4) the Texas State Board of Pharmacy;
- 25 (5) the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
26 [~~State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners~~];
- 27 (6) the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners;



- 1           (7) the Texas Medical Board;
- 2           (8) the Texas Board of Nursing;
- 3           (9) the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council
- 4 ~~[State Board of Examiners of Psychologists]~~;
- 5           (10) the Texas Funeral Service Commission;
- 6           (11) the entity that regulates the practice of
- 7 physical therapy;
- 8           (12) the entity that regulates the practice of
- 9 occupational therapy;
- 10           (13) the health licensing division of the Health and
- 11 Human Services Commission ~~[Department of State Health Services]~~;
- 12 and
- 13           (14) the governor's office.

14           SECTION 3.008. Section [110.001\(7\)](#), Occupations Code, is

15 amended to read as follows:

16           (7) "Sex offender treatment provider" means a person,

17 licensed by the council and recognized based on training and

18 experience to provide assessment and treatment to adult sex

19 offenders or juveniles with sexual behavioral problems who have

20 been convicted, adjudicated, awarded deferred adjudication, or

21 referred by a state agency or a court, and licensed in this state to

22 practice as a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, psychological

23 associate, provisionally licensed psychologist, licensed

24 professional counselor, licensed professional counselor intern,

25 licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed marriage and

26 family associate, licensed clinical social worker, licensed master

27 social worker under a clinical supervision plan approved by the

1 Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council [~~State Board of Social~~  
2 ~~Worker Examiners~~], or advanced practice nurse recognized as a  
3 psychiatric clinical nurse specialist or psychiatric mental health  
4 nurse practitioner, who provides mental health or medical services  
5 for rehabilitation of sex offenders.

6 ARTICLE 4. TRANSITIONS AND EFFECTIVE DATE

7 SECTION 4.001. In this article:

8 (1) "Executive council" means the Texas Behavioral  
9 Health Executive Council.

10 (2) "Transferring entity" means:

11 (A) the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
12 Psychologists;

13 (B) the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
14 Marriage and Family Therapists;

15 (C) the Texas State Board of Examiners of  
16 Professional Counselors; and

17 (D) the Texas State Board of Social Worker  
18 Examiners.

19 SECTION 4.002. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of  
20 this section, Sections [501.059](#), [502.059](#), [503.110](#), and [505.109](#),  
21 Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, apply to a member of the  
22 applicable board appointed before, on, or after the effective date  
23 of this Act.

24 (b) A member of a board who, before the effective date of  
25 this Act, completed the training program required by Section  
26 [501.059](#), [502.059](#), [503.110](#), or [505.109](#), Occupations Code, as the  
27 applicable law existed before the effective date of this Act, is

1 required to complete additional training only on the subjects added  
2 by this Act to the training program required by Section 501.059,  
3 502.059, 503.110, or 505.109, Occupations Code, as applicable. A  
4 board member described by this subsection may not vote, deliberate,  
5 or be counted as a member in attendance at a meeting of the board  
6 held on or after December 1, 2019, until the member completes the  
7 additional training.

8 SECTION 4.003. (a) Section 501.2525, Occupations Code, as  
9 redesignated and amended by this Act, applies only to an  
10 application for a license under Chapter 501, Occupations Code, that  
11 is submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. An  
12 application submitted before the effective date of this Act is  
13 governed by the law in effect on the date the application was  
14 submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
15 purpose.

16 (b) A provisional license issued under Section 501.253,  
17 Occupations Code, that is in effect on the effective date of this  
18 Act continues to be valid until the license expires.

19 (c) Section 502.252, Occupations Code, as amended by this  
20 Act, applies only to an application for a license under Chapter 502,  
21 Occupations Code, submitted on or after the date on which rules  
22 adopted by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council under that  
23 section take effect. An application submitted before that date is  
24 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date  
25 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
26 purpose.

27 SECTION 4.004. Not later than August 31, 2020, an initial

1 member of the executive council shall complete the training  
2 required by Section 507.059, Occupations Code, as added by this  
3 Act. On or after September 1, 2020, a member of the executive  
4 council may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in  
5 attendance at a meeting of the executive council until the member  
6 has completed the training required by that section.

7 SECTION 4.005. (a) Not later than December 1, 2019, the  
8 appropriate appointing authorities shall appoint the members of the  
9 executive council as provided by Section 507.051, Occupations Code,  
10 as added by this Act.

11 (b) Notwithstanding the terms established by Section  
12 507.054, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, in making the  
13 initial appointments to the executive council, the Texas State  
14 Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Texas State Board of  
15 Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Texas State Board  
16 of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and the Texas State Board  
17 of Social Worker Examiners shall each appoint one member to a term  
18 expiring February 1, 2021, and one member to a term expiring  
19 February 1, 2022.

20 SECTION 4.006. (a) The Texas Behavioral Health Incubation  
21 Task Force is established to assist in the establishment of and  
22 transfer of regulatory programs to the executive council under this  
23 Act by providing guidance to:

24 (1) the executive council regarding:

25 (A) hiring the executive director of the  
26 executive council;

27 (B) developing functional alignments within the

1 organizational structure of the executive council;

2 (C) establishing any necessary accounts and  
3 reporting requirements; and

4 (D) seeking input from interested parties  
5 throughout the transfer; and

6 (2) the transferring entities and the executive  
7 council regarding:

8 (A) the efficient transfer of necessary data; and

9 (B) the revision of existing rules to align with  
10 the administrative structure of the executive council.

11 (b) The task force is composed of:

12 (1) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
13 Services Commission, or the executive commissioner's designee;

14 (2) the executive director of the Texas Department of  
15 Licensing and Regulation, or the executive director's designee;

16 (3) the executive director of the Texas State Board of  
17 Examiners of Psychologists;

18 (4) a representative of the Texas State Board of  
19 Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists;

20 (5) a representative of the Texas State Board of  
21 Examiners of Professional Counselors; and

22 (6) a representative of the Texas State Board of  
23 Social Worker Examiners.

24 (c) The entities represented on the task force may adopt a  
25 memorandum of understanding to accomplish the responsibilities and  
26 duties of the task force and to ensure access by the entities of any  
27 systems and information necessary to effectively transfer the

1 regulatory programs to the executive council under this Act.

2 SECTION 4.007. (a) Not later than April 1, 2020, the  
3 executive council shall hire an executive director for the  
4 executive council.

5 (b) Not later than July 31, 2020, the executive council  
6 shall adopt procedural rules necessary to implement Chapter 507,  
7 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 4.008. (a) As soon as practicable after the  
9 appointment of the members of the executive council, the executive  
10 council and the transferring entities shall adopt a transition plan  
11 to provide for the orderly transfer of powers, duties, functions,  
12 programs, and activities under this Act. The transition plan must  
13 provide for the transfer of each regulatory program to be  
14 completed on or before August 31, 2020.

15 (b) The transferring entities shall provide the executive  
16 council with access to any systems or information necessary for the  
17 executive council to accept a program transferred under this Act.

18 (c) On the date specified in the transition plan required  
19 under Subsection (a) of this section for the transfer of a  
20 particular program to the executive council, all full-time  
21 equivalent employee positions at a transferring entity that  
22 primarily concern the administration or enforcement of the program  
23 being transferred become positions at the executive council. The  
24 executive council shall post the positions for hiring and, when  
25 filling the positions, shall give consideration to, but is not  
26 required to hire, an applicant who, immediately before the date of  
27 the transfer, was an employee at a transferring entity primarily

1 involved in administering or enforcing the transferred program.

2 SECTION 4.009. On the date specified in the transition plan  
3 required under Section 4.008(a) of this Act for the transfer of a  
4 particular program to the executive council:

5 (1) a rule or fee relating to a transferred program  
6 that is in effect on that date remains in effect until changed by  
7 the executive council;

8 (2) a license, registration, certification, or other  
9 authorization relating to a transferred program that is in effect  
10 on that date is continued in effect as a license, registration,  
11 certification, or other authorization of the executive council; and

12 (3) a complaint, investigation, contested case, or  
13 other proceeding relating to a transferred program that is pending  
14 before a transferring entity on that date is transferred without  
15 change in status to the executive council.

16 SECTION 4.010. To the extent of any conflict, this Act  
17 prevails over another Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session,  
18 2019, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in  
19 enacted codes.

20 SECTION 4.011. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.