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H.B. No. 2598

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a school psychologist licensed under the Occupations Code.

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

SECTION 1. Section 38.303(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The task force is composed of:

(1) the commissioner or the commissioner's designee;

(2) the following additional members appointed by the commissioner:

(A) three parents of students who are enrolled in school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and receive the mental health services described by Section 38.302(1);

(B) one person who provides the mental health services described by Section 38.302(1) or the training described by Section 38.302(2) and who is:

(i) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

(ii) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by Section 505.002, Occupations Code; or

(iii) a school counselor certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21;

(C) one person who is a psychiatrist;

(D) two persons who are administrators of

districts or schools that provide the mental health services described by Section 38.302(1) or the training described by Section 38.302(2);

(E) one person who is a member of a foundation that invests in the mental health services described by Section 38.302(1) or the training described by Section 38.302(2);

(F) one person who is an employee of an institution of higher education designated under Section 38.307; and

(G) one person who is a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school psychologist ~~[psychology]~~, as defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code; and

(3) for any other entity the task force considers necessary, one person appointed by the task force for each such entity.

SECTION 2. Section 548.0203(a), Government Code, as effective April 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In this section, "health professional" means an individual who is:

(1) licensed, registered, certified, or otherwise authorized by this state to practice as a social worker, occupational therapist, or speech-language pathologist;

(2) a licensed professional counselor;

(3) a licensed marriage and family therapist; or

(4) a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code ~~[psychology]~~.

SECTION 3. Section 501.002(2), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "School psychologist" [~~"Licensed specialist in school psychology"~~] means a person who holds a license to engage in the practice of psychology under Section 501.260.

SECTION 4. Section 501.051(a-1), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) One of the members appointed under Subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) must practice as a [~~licensed specialist in~~] school psychologist [~~psychology~~] under Section 501.260.

SECTION 5. The heading to Section 501.260, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 501.260. [~~LICENSED SPECIALIST IN~~] SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST [~~PSYCHOLOGY~~].

SECTION 6. Sections 501.260(a) and (c), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

(c) The rules of practice for a [~~licensed specialist in~~] school psychologist [~~psychology~~] must comply with nationally recognized standards for the practice of school psychology.

SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.