

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
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As Engrossed: H2/19/25 S3/18/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1257

By: Representative L. Johnson

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION OF THE PRACTICE OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY FROM TECHNICIANS EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS; TO ALLOW PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS TO BE EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION OF THE PRACTICE OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY FROM TECHNICIANS EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS; AND TO ALLOW PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIANS TO BE EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-97-401(a) and (b), concerning technicians employed by psychologists, are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) A technician may be employed by a licensed psychologist ~~in the practice of neuropsychology~~ or a healthcare facility.

(2)(A) An individual employed as a technician ~~may be employed only in neuropsychological testing and shall be restricted to the administration and scoring of standardized objective tests~~ shall only practice under the supervision of a licensed psychologist in the following areas:

(i) Administration and scoring of standardized objective psychological tests with specific predetermined and manualized procedures;

(ii) Manualized cognitive intervention services; and



(iii) Administration of fitness-to-proceed examinations under § 5-2-301 et seq.

(B) An individual employed as a technician ~~may~~ shall not: ~~administer or score projective tests~~

(i) Select tests;

(ii) Conduct intake assessments;

(iii) Conduct clinical interviews including without limitation patient interviews and collateral interviews of relatives, friends of the patient, or other professionals associated with the patient;

(iv) Interpret patient data;

(v) Communicate test results or treatment recommendations to patients; or

(vi) Administer tests in educational institutions.

(b)(1) A technician shall have a bachelor's degree from ~~a regionally~~ an accredited institution, ~~preferably with a major in psychology approved by~~ the Arkansas Psychology Board.

~~(2) The basic educational background of a technician shall include passing grades from instruction in:~~

~~(A) Abnormal psychology;~~

~~(B) Personality;~~

~~(C) Psychological statistics; and~~

~~(D) Psychological testing.~~

~~(3) As used in this subsection, "passing grade" means:~~

~~(A) "C" in a letter grading system;~~

~~(B) "Pass" in a pass/fail system; or~~

~~(C) "Satisfactory" in a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading system.~~

~~(4) A technician who has completed a degree with a nonpsychology major shall have completed course work with passing grades in the subject matter areas listed in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

~~(5)(A)(2)(A)~~ (A) A technician who does not have ~~this academic background and~~ the academic background under subdivision (b)(1) of this section and who is currently employed by a psychologist shall be provided with specific information to supplement his or her training in ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological test administration.

(B) ~~Any~~ A technician employed by a psychologist ~~in the~~

~~future shall be required to~~ shall meet the academic background specified in this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-97-402(a), concerning additional training for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The supervising psychologist shall make the technician aware:

~~(1) Of the goals of neuropsychological examination and his or her specific role in achieving those goals;~~

~~(2)~~ Through additional training, if necessary, of appropriate institutional emergency procedures to deal with various medical emergencies such as heart attack, respiratory arrest, and seizures and of other relevant information; and

~~(3)~~(2) In addition to medical emergencies, of recommended procedures for dealing with incompetent or adjudicated patients who attempt to leave the testing setting without authorization.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-97-402(d), concerning additional training of a technician employed by a psychologist, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(4) The supervising psychologist shall provide eighty (80) hours of documented training in the following areas:

(A) A minimum of four (4) hours of professional ethics, confidentiality, mandatory reporting, best practices in objective test administration, and scoring;

(B) A minimum of sixteen (16) hours in the study of test manuals;

(C) A minimum of twenty (20) hours of direct observation of test administration and scoring by a licensed psychologist; and

(D) A minimum of forty (40) hours of administering and scoring tests under the direct supervision of a licensed psychologist.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-97-402(g)(1), concerning additional training for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

(g)(1) The supervising psychologist shall ensure that each technician

employed by the psychologist has an explicit understanding of the limited nature of the technician's role in ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological examination.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-97-403, concerning registration of technicians employed by a licensed psychologist, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) The board may require an annual registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405(a)(1), concerning the supervision of technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) An acceptable employment setting for a technician ~~provides~~ shall provide ongoing ~~neuropsychological~~ psychological services or scientific research in a well-defined and established program.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405(c), concerning the supervision of technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The setting shall include a licensed, Arkansas Psychology Board-approved psychologist who is legally and ethically responsible for the oversight of the integrity and quality of the services as well as other resources necessary to meet the employment needs of the technician whose technical assistance is restricted to the practice of ~~neuropsychology~~ psychology and research.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 17-97-405, concerning the supervision of technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(g) A supervising psychologist shall not supervise more than four (4) full-time technicians at one (1) time.

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 17-97-406(a), concerning the qualifications of supervisors for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A supervising psychologist shall be:

(1) Licensed to practice psychology in Arkansas;

(2) Aware of and abide by the ethical principles and state statutes pertaining to the practice of psychology in general and to supervision in particular; and

(3) Approved by the Arkansas Psychology Board to practice ~~neuropsychology~~ psychology.

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 17-97-406(d)(1), concerning the qualifications of supervisors for technicians employed by psychologists, is amended to read as follows:

(d)(1) A supervising psychologist shall ~~have adequate training, knowledge, and skill to render competently any neuropsychological service which~~ be licensed to practice psychological assessment services in the areas in which the ~~employed~~ technician undertakes.

SECTION 11. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 97, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-97-407. Reimbursement – Definition.

(a) As used in this section, “health benefit plan” means a plan, policy, contract, certificate, agreement, or other evidence of coverage for healthcare services offered or issued by a healthcare insurer in this state.

(b) A psychologist shall be reimbursed for services provided by a technician for the administration and scoring of psychological testing by:

(1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program; or

(2) A health benefit plan.

/s/L. Johnson