

## Senate Bill No. 1983

### CHAPTER 589

An act to amend Sections 2920, 2922, 2925, 2933, 2936, 2942, 2946, 4980.34, 4989, 4990.1, 4990.8, 4996.18, and 4996.20 of, and to add Sections 2964.3, 2966, and 4996.21 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

[Approved by Governor September 17, 1998. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 18, 1998.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1983, Greene. Healing arts: boards.

Existing law establishes the Board of Psychology, consisting of 8 members, and authorizes it to employ all personnel necessary to carry out its duties of administering and enforcing the law regulating the practice of psychology. The board's existence terminates on July 1, 1999.

This bill would extend the board's existence until July 1, 2005, and would provide for an additional public member on the board.

Existing law requires the Board of Psychology, by rule or regulation, to establish standards of ethical conduct relating to the practice of psychology.

This bill would instead require the board to adopt a Code of Ethics adopted and published by the American Psychological Association, as specified.

Existing law requires the board to examine applicants for a psychologist's license by written or oral examination, or both, and specifies a passing grade of 75%.

This bill would, instead, require the board to establish by regulation those passing grades. It would specifically prohibit registered sex offenders from being eligible for licensure or registration by the board, and would provide for license suspension based upon felony conviction, as specified.

Existing law establishes the Board of Behavioral Sciences and requires it to administer and enforce the law regulating the practice of marriage, family and child counseling and clinical social work. The board's existence terminates on July 1, 1999.

This bill would extend the board's existence until July 1, 2005, and make conforming changes.

Existing law provides that an applicant for a clinical social workers license is subject to examination by the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

This bill would revise and recast certain experience credit provisions, as specified.

The bill would require the Board of Behavioral Sciences to report to the Legislature on or before October 1, 1999, concerning efforts to identify educational issues relating to licensure.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 2920 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2920. The Board of Psychology shall enforce and administer this chapter. The board shall consist of nine members, four of whom shall be public members.

This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2005, and, as of January 1, 2006, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 2922 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2922. In appointing the members of the board, except the public members, the Governor shall use his or her judgment to select psychologists who represent, as widely as possible, the varied professional interests of psychologists in California.

The Governor shall appoint two of the public members and the five licensed members of the board qualified as provided in Section 2923. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each appoint a public member, and their initial appointment shall be made to fill, respectively, the first and second public member vacancies which occur on or after January 1, 1983.

SEC. 3. Section 2925 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2925. The board shall elect annually a president and vice president from among its members.

SEC. 4. Section 2933 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2933. Except as provided by Section 159.5, the board shall employ and shall make available to the board within the limits of the funds received by the board all personnel necessary to carry out this chapter. The board may employ, exempt from the State Civil Service Act, an executive officer to the Board of Psychology. The board shall make all expenditures to carry out this chapter. The board may accept contributions to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2005, and, as of January 1, 2006, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

SEC. 5. Section 2936 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:



2936. The board shall adopt a program of consumer and professional education in matters relevant to the ethical practice of psychology. The board shall establish as its standards of ethical conduct relating to the practice of psychology, the code of ethics adopted and published by the American Psychological Association (APA). Those standards shall be applied by the board as the accepted standard of care in all licensing examination development and in all board enforcement policies and disciplinary case evaluations.

To facilitate consumers in receiving appropriate psychological services, all licensees and registrants shall be required to post, in a conspicuous location in their principal psychological business office, a notice which reads as follows:

“NOTICE: The Department of Consumer Affairs receives questions and complaints regarding the practice of psychology. If you have any questions or complaints, you may contact this department by calling (insert appropriate regional number) or (insert appropriate telephone number), or by writing to the following address:

Board of Psychology  
1422 Howe Avenue, Ste. 22  
Sacramento, California 95825-3236”

SEC. 6. Section 2942 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2942. The board may examine by written or oral examination or by both. The examination shall be given at least twice a year at the time and place and under supervision as the board may determine. The passing grades for the written and oral examinations shall be established by the board in regulations and shall be based on psychometrically sound principles of establishing minimum qualifications and levels of competency.

Examinations for a psychologist’s license may be conducted by the board under a uniform examination system, and for that purpose the board may make arrangements with organizations furnishing examination material as may in its discretion be desirable.

SEC. 7. Section 2946 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2946. The board shall grant a license to any person who passes the California Jurisprudence and Professional Ethics Oral Examination and, at the time of application, is licensed or certified by a psychology licensing authority in another state if the requirements for obtaining a certificate or license in that state were substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

A psychologist certified or licensed in another state and who has made application to the board for a license in this state may perform activities and services of a psychological nature without a valid



license for a period not to exceed 180 calendar days from the time of submitting his or her application or from the commencement of residency in this state, whichever first occurs.

The board at its discretion may waive those parts of the examination, including either the whole of the written or the oral examinations, when in the judgment of the board the applicant has already demonstrated competence in areas covered by those parts of the examination. The board at its discretion may waive the examination for diplomates of the American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology or psychologists who have made a significant contribution to psychology and have had at least 10 years of experience.

SEC. 8. Section 2964.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2964.3. Any person required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code, is not eligible for licensure or registration by the board.

SEC. 9. Section 2966 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

2966. (a) A psychologist's license shall be suspended automatically during any time that the holder of the license is incarcerated after conviction of a felony, regardless of whether the conviction has been appealed. The board shall, immediately upon receipt of the certified copy of the record of conviction, determine whether the license of the psychologist has been automatically suspended by virtue of his or her incarceration, and if so, the duration of that suspension. The board shall notify the psychologist of the license suspension and of his or her right to elect to have the issue of penalty heard as provided in this section.

(b) Upon receipt of the certified copy of the record of conviction, if after a hearing it is determined therefrom that the felony of which the licensee was convicted was substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a psychologist, the board shall suspend the license until the time for appeal has elapsed, if no appeal has been taken, or until the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or has otherwise become final, and until further order of the board. The issue of substantial relationship shall be heard by an administrative law judge sitting alone or with a panel of the board, in the discretion of the board.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a conviction of any crime referred to in Section 187, 261, 262, or 288 of the Penal Code, shall be conclusively presumed to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a psychologist and no hearing shall be held on this issue. Upon its own motion or for good cause shown, the board may decline to impose or may set aside the suspension when it appears to be in the interest of justice to do so,



with due regard to maintaining the integrity of and confidence in the psychology profession.

(d) (1) Discipline or the denial of the license may be ordered in accordance with Section 2961, or the board may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has elapsed, the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment.

(2) The issue of penalty shall be heard by an administrative law judge sitting alone or with a panel of the board, in the discretion of the board. The hearing shall not be commenced until the judgment of conviction has become final or, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code, an order granting probation has been made suspending the imposition of sentence; except that a licensee may, at his or her option, elect to have the issue of penalty decided before those time periods have elapsed. Where the licensee so elects, the issue of penalty shall be heard in the manner described in this section at the hearing to determine whether the conviction was substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a psychologist. If the conviction of a licensee who has made this election is overturned on appeal, any discipline ordered pursuant to this section shall automatically cease. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit the board from pursuing disciplinary action based on any cause other than the overturned conviction.

(e) The record of the proceedings resulting in the conviction, including a transcript of the testimony therein, may be received in evidence.

SEC. 10. Section 4980.34 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4980.34. It is the intent of the Legislature that the board employ its resources for each and all of the following functions:

(a) The licensing of marriage, family, and child counselors, clinical social workers, and educational psychologists.

(b) The development and administration of written and oral licensing examinations and examination procedures, as specified, consistent with prevailing standards for the validation and use of licensing and certification tests. Examinations shall measure knowledge and abilities demonstrably important to the safe, effective practice of the profession.

(c) Enforcement of laws designed to protect the public from incompetent, unethical, or unprofessional practitioners.

(d) Consumer education.

SEC. 11. Section 4989 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:



4989. The powers and duties of the board, as set forth in this chapter, shall be subject to the review required by Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 473). The review shall be performed as if this chapter were scheduled to become inoperative on July 1, 2005, and would be repealed as of January 1, 2006, as described in Section 473.1.

SEC. 12. Section 4990.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4990.1. There is in the Department of Consumer Affairs a Board of Behavioral Sciences which consists of 11 members.

This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2005, and, as of January 1, 2006, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

SEC. 13. Section 4990.8 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4990.8. The executive officer shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the board and vested in him or her by this chapter.

This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2005, and, as of January 1, 2006, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

SEC. 14. Section 4996.18 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4996.18. (a) Any person who wishes to be credited with experience toward licensure requirements shall register with the board as an associate clinical social worker prior to obtaining that experience. The application shall be made on a form prescribed by the board and shall be accompanied by a fee of ninety dollars (\$90). An applicant for registration shall (1) possess a master's degree from an accredited school or department of social work, and (2) not have committed any crimes or acts constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480. On and after January 1, 1993, an applicant who possesses a master's degree from a school or department of social work that is a candidate for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education shall be eligible, and shall be required, to register as an associate clinical social worker in order to gain experience toward licensure if the applicant has not committed any crimes or acts that constitute grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480. That applicant shall not, however, be eligible for examination until the school or department of social work has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.

(b) Registration as an associate clinical social worker shall expire one year from the last day of the month during which it was issued.



A registration may be renewed annually after initial registration by filing an application for renewal and paying a renewal fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75) on or before the date on which the registration expires. Each person who registers or has registered as an associate clinical social worker, may retain that status for a total of six years.

(c) Notwithstanding the limitations on the length of an associate registration in subdivision (b), an associate may apply for, and the board shall grant, one-year extensions beyond the six-year period when no grounds exist for denial, suspension, or revocation of the registration pursuant to Section 480. An associate shall be eligible to receive a maximum of three one-year extensions. An associate who practices pursuant to an extension shall not practice independently and shall comply with all requirements of this chapter governing experience, including supervision, even if the associate has completed the hours of experience required for licensure. Each extension shall commence on the date when the last associate renewal or extension expires. An application for extension shall be made on a form prescribed by the board and shall be accompanied by a renewal fee of fifty dollars (\$50). An associate who is granted this extension may work in all work settings authorized pursuant to this chapter.

(d) Experience gained before January 1, 1990, shall be credited toward the licensure requirements so long as the applicant applies for registration not later than December 31, 1989, and that registration is thereafter granted by the board.

(e) A registrant shall not provide clinical social work services to the public for a fee, monetary or otherwise, except as an employee of the licensed person by whom the registrant is being supervised.

(f) A registrant shall inform each client or patient prior to performing any professional services that he or she is unlicensed and is under the supervision of a licensed professional.

(g) Any experience obtained under the supervision of a spouse or relative by blood or marriage shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience. Any experience obtained under the supervision of a supervisor with whom the applicant has a personal relationship that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience.

(h) An applicant who possesses a master's degree from an approved school or department of social work shall be able to apply experience the applicant obtained during the time the approved school or department was in candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education toward the licensure requirements, if the experience meets the requirements of Section 4996.20. This subdivision shall apply retroactively to persons who possess a master's degree from an approved school or



department of social work and who obtained experience during the time the approved school or department was in candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.

(i) The board shall report to the Legislature on or before October 1, 1999, concerning its efforts to identify educational issues that relate to licensure.

SEC. 15. Section 4996.20 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4996.20. The experience required by subdivision (c) of Section 4996.2 shall meet the following criteria:

(a) An applicant shall have at least 3,200 hours of post-master's experience, supervised by a licensed clinical social worker, in providing clinical social work services consisting of psychosocial diagnosis; assessment; treatment, including psychotherapy and counseling; client-centered advocacy; consultation; and evaluation as permitted by Section 4996.9. For persons applying for licensure on or after January 1, 1992, this experience shall have been gained in not less than two nor more than six years and shall have been gained within the six years immediately preceding the date on which the application for licensure was filed. The board may credit experience gained more than six years prior to the date on which an application was filed upon a showing of good cause or where the applicant is licensed and currently practicing in another state.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of subdivision (a) that 3,200 hours of experience shall be gained under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker, up to 1,000 hours of the required experience may be gained under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional acceptable to the board.

For purposes of this section, "supervision" means responsibility for and control of the quality of social work services being provided. Consultation shall not be considered to be supervision. Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervision for each week of experience claimed. Not less than one-half of the hours of required supervision shall be individual supervision. The remaining hours may be group supervision. "Individual supervision" means one supervisor meets with one supervisee at a time. "Group supervision" means a supervisor meets with a group of no more than eight supervisees at a time.

(c) For purposes of this section, a "private practice setting" is any setting other than a governmental entity, a school, college or university, a nonprofit and charitable corporation or a licensed health facility. Employment in a private practice setting shall not commence until the applicant has been registered as an associate clinical social worker. A registrant employed in a private practice setting shall not:



(1) Pay his or her employer for supervision, and shall receive fair remuneration from his or her employer.

(2) Receive any remuneration from patients or clients and shall only be paid by his or her employer.

(3) Perform services at any place except where the registrant's employer regularly conducts business.

(4) Have any proprietary interest in the employer's business.

(d) A person employed in a setting other than a private practice setting may obtain supervision from a person not employed by the registrant's employer if that person has signed a written contract with the employer to take supervisory responsibility for the registrant's social work services.

(e) This section shall apply only to persons who apply for registration on or before December 31, 1998.

SEC. 16. Section 4996.21 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4996.21. The experience required by subdivision (c) of Section 4996.2 shall meet the following criteria:

(a) On or after January 1, 1999, a registrant shall have at least 3,200 hours of post-master's experience, supervised by a licensed clinical social worker, in providing clinical social work services as permitted by Section 4996.9. Experience shall consist of the following:

(1) A minimum of 2,000 hours in psychosocial diagnosis, assessment, and treatment, including psychotherapy and counseling.

(2) A maximum of 1,200 hours in client-centered advocacy, consultation, evaluation, and research.

(3) Experience shall have been gained in not less than two nor more than six years and shall have been gained within the six years immediately preceding the date on which the application for licensure was filed.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of subdivision (a), up to 1,000 hours of the required experience may be gained under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional.

(1) Supervision means responsibility for and control of the quality of clinical social work services being provided.

(2) Consultation shall not be considered to be supervision.

(3) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for each week of experience claimed and shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every 10 hours of client contact in each setting where experience is gained. Not less than one-half of the hours of required supervision shall be individual supervision. The remaining hours may be group supervision. For purposes of this section, "one hour of direct supervisor contact" means one hour of face-to-face contact on an individual basis or two hours of face-to-face contact in a group setting of not more than eight persons.



(4) The supervisor and the supervisee shall develop a supervisory plan that describes the goals and objectives of supervision. These goals shall include the ongoing assessment of strengths and limitations and the assurance of practice in accordance with the laws and regulations. The associate shall submit to the board the initial supervisory plan within 30 days of commencement of supervision. The supervisor shall submit to the board within 30 days of termination of supervision evidence of satisfactorily completed supervised experience by the supervisee.

(c) A “private practice setting” is any setting other than a governmental entity, a school, college, or university, a nonprofit and charitable corporation, a licensed health facility, as defined in Sections 1250, 1250.2, and 1250.3 of the Health and Safety Code, a social rehabilitation facility or a community treatment facility, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code, a pediatric day health and respite care facility, as defined in Section 1760.2 of the Health and Safety Code, or a licensed alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facility, as defined in Section 11834.02 of the Health and Safety Code.

(1) In a setting that is not a private practice, a registrant shall be employed on either a voluntary or paid basis.

(2) If volunteering, the registrant shall provide the board with a letter from his or her employer verifying his or her voluntary status upon application for licensure.

(3) If employed, the registrant shall provide the board with copies of his or her W-2 tax forms for each year of experience claimed upon application for licensure.

(d) Employment in a private practice setting shall not commence until the applicant has been registered as an associate clinical social worker. A registrant employed in a private practice setting shall not do any of the following:

(1) Pay his or her employer or supervisor for supervision, and shall receive fair remuneration from his or her employer.

(2) Receive any remuneration from patients or clients and shall only be paid by his or her employer.

(3) Perform services at any place except where the registrant’s employer regularly conducts business.

(4) Have any proprietary interest in the employer’s business.

(e) A person employed in a setting other than a private practice setting may obtain supervision from a person not employed by the registrant’s employer if that person has signed a written agreement with the employer to take supervisory responsibility for the registrant’s social work services.

