

SENATE BILL NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR HOFFMAN

Introduced: 1/21/09

Referred: Education, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the practice and licensing of psychologists."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 08.86.162 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 08.86.162. Qualifications for associates' examination.** A person is
5 entitled to take a psychological associate examination if the board finds that the person
6 [:]

7 (1) has not engaged in dishonorable conduct related to the practice of
8 counseling or psychometry;

9 (2) holds a master's degree with primary emphasis on psychology from
10 an academic institution whose program of graduate study for a master's degree in
11 psychology meets the criteria established by the board by regulation, with the
12 equivalent of at least 48 semester credit hours of graduate course work directly related
13 to a specialized area of psychology in which licensure is requested, including a
14 practicum; **and**

15 (3) [REPEALED]

1 (4) has the recommendation of an immediate supervisor if a licensed
2 psychologist, or two licensed psychologists who hold doctoral degrees [; AND

3 (5) HAS NOT WITHIN THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS FAILED
4 AN EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE BOARD].

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 08.86.180(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) This section does not apply to

7 (1) a person employed **as a school psychologist** [BY A
8 GOVERNMENTAL UNIT, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR PRIVATE
9 AGENCY WHO MAY BE REQUIRED TO ENGAGE IN SOME PHASE OF WORK
10 OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL NATURE IN THE COURSE OF THE PERSON'S
11 EMPLOYMENT], if the **school district** [EMPLOYER] maintains appropriate
12 supervision of psychological activities and professional conduct, and if the person is
13 performing the psychological activities as part of the duties for which the person was
14 employed, is performing the activities solely within the facilities of the **school district**
15 [ORGANIZATION] in which the person is employed or under the supervision of the
16 **school district** [ORGANIZATION IN WHICH THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED], and
17 does not render or offer to render psychological services to the public for
18 compensation in addition to the salary the person receives from the **school district**
19 [ORGANIZATION];

20 (2) **an officer or employee of the United States government**
21 **practicing psychology while in the discharge of the officer's or employee's official**
22 **duties;**

23 (3) a student, intern, or resident in psychology pursuing a course of
24 study approved by the board as qualifying training and experience for a psychologist,
25 if that person's activities constitute a part of that person's supervised course of study
26 and that person is designated by titles such as "psychology intern" or "psychology
27 trainee";

28 (4) [(3)] a qualified member of another profession, in doing work of a
29 psychological nature consistent with that person's training and consistent with the code
30 of ethics of that person's profession, if the person does not hold out to the public by a
31 title or description of services incorporating the words "psychology," "psychological,"

1 "psychologist," "psychometry," "psychotherapy," "psychotherapeutic,"
 2 "psychotherapist," "psychoanalysis," or "psychoanalyst" or represent to be trained,
 3 experienced, or qualified to render services in the field of psychology; **or** [.]

4 (4) [REPEALED

5 (5)] a physician engaged in the normal practice of medicine for which
 6 the physician is licensed under AS 08.64.

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 08.86.230(6) is amended to read:

8 (6) "to practice psychology" means to render or offer to render [FOR A
 9 FEE] to individuals, groups, organizations, or the public for the diagnosis, prevention,
 10 treatment, or amelioration of psychological problems and emotional and mental
 11 disorders of individuals or groups or for conducting research on human behavior, a
 12 psychological service involving the application of psychological principles, methods,
 13 and procedures of understanding, predicting, and influencing behavior, including

14 (A) the principles pertaining to learning, perception,
 15 motivation, emotions, and interpersonal relationships;

16 (B) the methods and procedures of interviewing, counseling,
 17 psychotherapy, biofeedback, behavior modification, and hypnosis;

18 (C) constructing, administering, and interpreting tests of mental
 19 abilities, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, personality characteristics, emotions,
 20 and motivations.