

1 SENATE BILL 127

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 William P. Soules

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9  
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO LICENSING; AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST  
12 ACT; AMENDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW  
13 MEXICO STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS; CLARIFYING TERMS;  
14 ALLOWING A PRESCRIBING PSYCHOLOGIST TO PRESCRIBE AND ADMINISTER  
15 INTRAMUSCULAR AND SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTIONS; CREATING A COMMITTEE  
16 TO EVALUATE LICENSING COMPLAINTS AGAINST PRESCRIBING  
17 PSYCHOLOGISTS.

18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

20 SECTION 1. Section 61-9-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,  
21 Chapter 92, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

22 "61-9-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Professional  
23 Psychologist Act:

24 A. "board" means the New Mexico state board of  
25 psychologist examiners;

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1           B. "conditional prescription certificate" means a  
2 document issued by the board to a licensed psychologist that  
3 permits the holder to prescribe psychotropic medication under  
4 the supervision of a supervising clinician pursuant to the  
5 Professional Psychologist Act;

6           C. "independently licensed prescribing clinician"  
7 means a licensed physician, osteopathic physician, nurse  
8 practitioner, psychiatric nurse practitioner or clinical nurse  
9 specialist;

10          D. "person" includes an individual, firm,  
11 partnership, association or corporation;

12          E. "prescribing psychologist" means a licensed  
13 psychologist who holds a valid prescription certificate;

14          F. "prescription certificate" means a document  
15 issued by the board to a licensed psychologist that permits the  
16 holder to prescribe psychotropic medication pursuant to the  
17 Professional Psychologist Act;

18          G. "psychotropic medication" means a controlled  
19 substance or dangerous drug that may not be dispensed or  
20 administered without a prescription [~~and whose primary~~  
21 ~~indication for use has been approved by the federal food and~~  
22 ~~drug administration for the treatment of mental disorders or is~~  
23 ~~listed as a psychotherapeutic agent in *Drug Facts and*~~  
24 ~~*Comparisons 2017*, or the most recent edition of that book, or~~  
25 ~~in *American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information*] but is~~

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1 limited to only those agents related to the diagnosis and  
2 treatment or management of mental, nervous, emotional,  
3 behavioral, substance use or cognitive disorders, including the  
4 management of or protection from side effects that result from  
5 the use of those agents, whose use is consistent with the  
6 standards of practice for clinical psychopharmacology;

7 H. "psychologist" means a person who engages in the  
8 practice of psychology or holds the person's self out to the  
9 public by any title or description of services representing the  
10 person as a psychologist, which incorporates the words  
11 "psychological", "psychologist", "psychology", or when a person  
12 describes the person's self as above and, under such title or  
13 description, offers to render or renders services involving the  
14 application of principles, methods and procedures of the  
15 science and profession of psychology to persons for  
16 compensation or other personal gain;

17 I. "practice of psychology" means the observation,  
18 description, evaluation, interpretation and modification of  
19 human behavior by the application of psychological principles,  
20 methods and procedures for the purpose of preventing or  
21 eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive or undesired behavior and  
22 of enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life  
23 adjustment, personal effectiveness, behavioral health and  
24 mental health, and further means the rendering of such  
25 psychological services to individuals, families or groups

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1 regardless of whether payment is received for services  
2 rendered. The practice of psychology includes psychological  
3 testing or neuropsychological testing and the evaluation or  
4 assessment of personal characteristics such as intelligence,  
5 personality, abilities, interests, aptitudes and  
6 neuropsychological functioning; counseling, psychoanalysis,  
7 psychotherapy, hypnosis, biofeedback, behavior analysis and  
8 therapy; diagnosis and treatment of a mental and emotional  
9 disorder or disability, alcoholism and substance abuse,  
10 disorders of habit or conduct and the psychological aspects of  
11 physical illness, accident, injury and disability; and  
12 psychoeducational evaluation, therapy, remediation and  
13 consultation;

14 J. "school" or "college" means a university or  
15 other institution of higher education that is regionally  
16 accredited and that offers a full-time graduate course of study  
17 in psychology as defined by rule of the board or that is  
18 approved by the American psychological association; and

19 K. "supervising clinician" means a licensed  
20 physician, osteopathic physician, prescribing psychologist who  
21 has at least four years of independent experience prescribing  
22 psychotropic medication to treat behavioral and emotional  
23 conditions and mental illness, nurse practitioner, psychiatric  
24 nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist who is  
25 supervising a psychologist in the prescribing of psychotropic

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1 medication."

2 SECTION 2. Section 61-9-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,  
3 Chapter 41, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "61-9-5. STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS--PSYCHOLOGY FUND.--

5 A. There is created a "New Mexico state board of  
6 psychologist examiners". The board shall be administratively  
7 attached to the regulation and licensing department. The board  
8 shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor who  
9 are residents of New Mexico and who shall serve for three-year  
10 staggered terms. The members shall be appointed as follows:

11 (1) four members shall be professional members  
12 who are licensed under the Professional Psychologist Act as  
13 psychologists, of which two members shall be prescribing  
14 psychologists. The governor shall appoint the professional  
15 members from a list of names nominated by the New Mexico  
16 psychological association, the state psychologist association  
17 and the New Mexico school psychologist association;

18 (2) one member shall be licensed under the  
19 Professional Psychologist Act as a psychologist or psychologist  
20 associate; and

21 (3) three members shall be public members who  
22 are [~~laymen~~] laypersons and have no significant financial  
23 interest, direct or indirect, in the practice of psychology.

24 B. A member shall hold office until the expiration  
25 of [~~his~~] the member's appointed term or until a successor is

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1 duly appointed. When the term of a member ends, the governor  
2 shall appoint [~~his~~] a successor for a term of three years. A  
3 vacancy occurring in the board membership other than by  
4 expiration of term shall be filled by the governor by  
5 appointment for the unexpired term of the member. The governor  
6 may remove a board member for misconduct, incompetency or  
7 neglect of duty.

8 C. All money received by the board shall be  
9 credited to the "psychology fund". Money in the psychology  
10 fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the  
11 general fund and shall be used in accordance with the  
12 provisions of the Professional Psychologist Act. The members  
13 of the board may be reimbursed as provided in the Per Diem and  
14 Mileage Act, but shall receive no other compensation,  
15 perquisite or allowance."

16 SECTION 3. Section 61-9-17.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2002,  
17 Chapter 100, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "61-9-17.1. CONDITIONAL PRESCRIPTION CERTIFICATE--  
19 PRESCRIPTION CERTIFICATE--APPLICATION--REQUIREMENTS--RULEMAKING  
20 BY BOARD--ISSUANCE, DENIAL, RENEWAL AND REVOCATION OF  
21 CERTIFICATION.--

22 A. A psychologist may apply to the board for a  
23 conditional prescription certificate. The application shall be  
24 made on a form approved by the board and be accompanied by  
25 evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

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1 (1) has completed a doctoral program in  
2 psychology from an accredited institution of higher education  
3 or professional school, or, if the program was not accredited  
4 at the time of the applicant's graduation, that the program  
5 meets professional standards determined acceptable by the  
6 board;

7 (2) holds a current license to practice  
8 psychology in New Mexico;

9 (3) has successfully completed pharmacological  
10 training from an institution of higher education approved by  
11 the board and the New Mexico medical board or from a provider  
12 of continuing education approved by the board and the New  
13 Mexico medical board;

14 (4) has passed a national certification  
15 examination approved by the board and the New Mexico medical  
16 board that tests the applicant's knowledge of pharmacology in  
17 the diagnosis, care and treatment of mental disorders;

18 (5) within the five years immediately  
19 preceding the date of application, has successfully completed  
20 an organized program of education approved by the board and the  
21 New Mexico medical board and consisting of didactic instruction  
22 of no [~~fewer~~] less than four hundred fifty classroom hours in  
23 at least the following core areas of instruction:

- 24 (a) neuroscience;  
25 (b) pharmacology;

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- 1 (c) psychopharmacology;  
2 (d) physiology;  
3 (e) pathophysiology;  
4 (f) appropriate and relevant physical  
5 and laboratory assessment; and

- 6 (g) clinical pharmacotherapeutics;  
7 (6) within the five years immediately  
8 preceding the date of application, has been certified by each  
9 of the applicant's supervising independently licensed  
10 prescribing clinicians as having successfully completed a  
11 supervised and relevant clinical experience, approved by the  
12 board and the New Mexico medical board, of:

- 13 (a) no less than an eighty-hour  
14 practicum in clinical assessment and pathophysiology under the  
15 supervision of an independently licensed prescribing  
16 [~~physician~~] clinician; and

- 17 (b) an additional supervised practicum  
18 of at least four hundred hours treating no fewer than one  
19 hundred patients with mental disorders, the practica to have  
20 been supervised by any one or a combination of a psychiatrist  
21 or other appropriately trained independently licensed  
22 prescribing [~~physician~~] clinician and determined by the board  
23 and the New Mexico medical board to be sufficient to  
24 competently train the applicant in the treatment of a diverse  
25 patient population. One-to-one supervision shall be provided



1 either face-to-face, telephonically or by video conference;

2 (7) has malpractice insurance in place,  
3 sufficient to satisfy the rules adopted by the board and the  
4 New Mexico medical board, that will cover the applicant during  
5 the period the conditional prescription certificate is in  
6 effect; and

7 (8) meets all other requirements, as  
8 determined by rule of the board, for obtaining a conditional  
9 prescription certificate.

10 B. The board shall issue a conditional prescription  
11 certificate if it finds that the applicant has met the  
12 requirements of Subsection A of this section. The certificate  
13 shall be valid for a period of two years, at the end of which  
14 the holder may again apply pursuant to the provisions of  
15 Subsection A of this section. A psychologist with a  
16 conditional prescription certificate may prescribe psychotropic  
17 medication under the supervision of a supervising clinician  
18 subject to the following conditions:

19 (1) the psychologist shall continue to hold a  
20 current license to practice psychology in New Mexico and  
21 continue to maintain malpractice insurance;

22 (2) the psychologist shall notify the board of  
23 the name of the psychologist's supervising clinician; and

24 (3) a supervising clinician shall notify the  
25 supervising clinician's own licensing board of the name of each

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1 psychologist under the supervising clinician's supervision.

2 C. A supervising clinician shall not be liable for  
3 the acts of a psychologist under the supervising clinician's  
4 supervision unless the injury or loss arises from those acts  
5 under the direction and control of the supervising clinician.

6 D. A psychologist may apply to the board for a  
7 prescription certificate. The application shall be made on a  
8 form approved by the board and be accompanied by evidence  
9 satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

10 (1) has been issued a conditional prescription  
11 certificate and has successfully completed two years of  
12 prescribing psychotropic medication as certified by the  
13 supervising clinician;

14 (2) has successfully undergone a process of  
15 independent peer review approved by the board and the  
16 New Mexico medical board;

17 (3) holds a current license to practice  
18 psychology in New Mexico;

19 (4) has malpractice insurance in place,  
20 sufficient to satisfy the rules adopted by the board, that will  
21 cover the applicant as a prescribing psychologist; and

22 (5) meets all other requirements, as  
23 determined by rule of the board, for obtaining a prescription  
24 certificate.

25 E. The board shall issue a prescription certificate

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1 if it finds that the applicant has met the requirements of  
2 Subsection D of this section. A psychologist with a  
3 prescription certificate may prescribe psychotropic medication  
4 pursuant to the provisions of the Professional Psychologist Act  
5 if the psychologist:

6 (1) continues to hold a current license to  
7 practice psychology in New Mexico and continues to maintain  
8 malpractice insurance; and

9 (2) annually satisfies the continuing  
10 education requirements for prescribing psychologists, as set by  
11 the board, which shall be no fewer than twenty hours each year.

12 F. The board shall promulgate rules providing for  
13 the procedures to be followed in obtaining a conditional  
14 prescription certificate, a prescription certificate and  
15 renewals of a prescription certificate. The board may set  
16 reasonable application and renewal fees.

17 G. The board shall promulgate rules establishing  
18 the grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of conditional  
19 prescription certificates and prescription certificates  
20 authorized to be issued pursuant to this section, including a  
21 provision for suspension or revocation of a license to practice  
22 psychology upon suspension or revocation of a certificate.  
23 Actions of denial, suspension or revocation of a certificate  
24 shall be in accordance with the Uniform Licensing Act."

25 SECTION 4. Section 61-9-17.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2002,

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1 Chapter 100, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

2 "61-9-17.2. PRESCRIBING PRACTICES.--

3 A. A prescribing psychologist or a psychologist  
4 with a conditional prescription certificate may administer and  
5 prescribe psychotropic medication within the recognized scope  
6 of the profession, including the ordering and review of  
7 laboratory tests in conjunction with the prescription, for the  
8 treatment of mental disorders.

9 B. When prescribing psychotropic medication for a  
10 patient, the prescribing psychologist or the psychologist with  
11 a conditional prescription certificate shall maintain an  
12 ongoing collaborative relationship with the health care  
13 practitioner who oversees the patient's general medical care to  
14 ensure that necessary medical examinations are conducted, the  
15 psychotropic medication is appropriate for the patient's  
16 medical condition and significant changes in the patient's  
17 medical or psychological condition are discussed.

18 C. The ongoing collaborative relationship shall be  
19 maintained pursuant to guidelines developed by the board and  
20 the New Mexico medical board, which shall optimize patient  
21 care.

22 D. The guidelines shall ensure that the prescribing  
23 psychologist or the psychologist with a conditional  
24 prescription certificate and the health care practitioner  
25 coordinate, and collaborate on, the care of the patient to

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1 provide optimal care. Nothing in this subsection shall require  
2 a prescribing psychologist or psychologist with a conditional  
3 prescription certificate to give prior notice to or obtain  
4 prior approval from a health care practitioner to prescribe  
5 psychotropic medication to a patient with whom the prescribing  
6 psychologist has established a psychologist-patient  
7 relationship; provided that the psychologist provides written  
8 notice of the prescription to the health care practitioner  
9 within twenty-four hours of its issuance to such patient.

10 ~~[E. A committee composed of members of the board~~  
11 ~~and the New Mexico medical board shall be established and,~~  
12 ~~pursuant to the guidelines, shall evaluate complaints. The~~  
13 ~~committee shall report its findings and recommendations to each~~  
14 ~~board for each board's appropriate actions.]~~

15 E. A psychologist with a conditional prescription  
16 certificate may prescribe and administer psychotropic  
17 intramuscular injections and subcutaneous injections to include  
18 antipsychotic medications and:

19 (1) injectable medication used in the  
20 treatment of substance use disorders under the supervision of a  
21 supervising clinician and upon completion of advanced training;  
22 or

23 (2) injectable medication used in the  
24 treatment of substance use disorders upon completion of board-  
25 approved training.

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1                   F. A committee composed of two prescribing  
2 psychologist members of the board and two members of the New  
3 Mexico medical board shall be established and, pursuant to the  
4 guidelines, shall evaluate licensing complaints against  
5 prescribing psychologists and report its findings and  
6 recommendations to each board for appropriate action. The  
7 committee shall develop education requirements for expanded  
8 practice and present these requirements to each board for  
9 approval.

10                   [~~F.~~] G. A prescription written by a prescribing  
11 psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional prescription  
12 certificate shall:

- 13                               (1) comply with applicable state and federal
- 14 laws;
- 15                               (2) be identified as issued by the
- 16 psychologist as "psychologist certified to prescribe"; and
- 17                               (3) include the psychologist's board-assigned
- 18 identification number.

19                   [~~G.~~] H. A prescribing psychologist or a  
20 psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate shall  
21 not delegate prescriptive authority to any other person.  
22 Records of all prescriptions shall be maintained in patient  
23 records.

24                   [~~H.~~] I. When authorized to prescribe controlled  
25 substances, a prescribing psychologist or a psychologist with a

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1 conditional prescription certificate shall file with the board  
2 in a timely manner all individual federal drug enforcement  
3 administration registrations and numbers. The board and the  
4 New Mexico medical board shall maintain current records on  
5 every psychologist, including federal registrations and  
6 numbers.

7 ~~[F.]~~ J. The board shall provide to the board of  
8 pharmacy and the New Mexico medical board an annual list of  
9 prescribing psychologists and psychologists with conditional  
10 prescription certificates that contains the information agreed  
11 upon ~~[between]~~ among the board, the New Mexico medical board  
12 and the board of pharmacy. The board shall promptly notify the  
13 board of pharmacy of psychologists who are added to or deleted  
14 from the list.

15 ~~[J.]~~ K. For the purpose of this section:

16 (1) "collaborative relationship" means a  
17 cooperative working relationship between a prescribing  
18 psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional prescription  
19 certificate and a health care practitioner in the provision of  
20 patient care, including diagnosis and cooperation in the  
21 management and delivery of physical and mental health care; and

22 (2) "health care practitioner" means a  
23 physician, osteopathic physician, nurse practitioner, physician  
24 assistant or clinical nurse specialist."

25 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the

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1 provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.

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