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SENATE ANALYSIS SECTION

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Senate Bill 24 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Senator William Sederburg

Committee: Health Policy

Date Completed: 2-5-87

RATIONALE

To become a fully licensed psychologist under the Public Health Code, a person must have completed 2,000 hours of internship, obtained a doctoral degree in psychology (including completion of academic requirements specified by Board of Psychology rules), completed at least 4,000 hours of postdoctoral experience in the practice of psychology, and obtained a limited license before completion of the postdoctoral work. Recently, a candidate for full licensure was denied licensure by the Board of Psychology, though the board acknowledged that she was fully qualified, when it was revealed that she had not obtained a limited license before completing her postdoctoral work. The board then ruled that she would have to obtain a limited license and, again, complete her postdoctoral training. Reportedly, the candidate had contacted the Department of Licensing and Regulation, prior to starting her training at Michigan State University, requesting information on licensing requirements. Along with the license application, she received a list of "general rules" or licensing requirements, which did not specify that a limited license must be obtained. The rules noted that a candidate could send the department \$2 to receive additional information, which this candidate chose not to do because she reportedly believed that she had received all the essential information. Since the candidate had followed the licensing requirements outlined in the "general rules" but had been denied licensure because of a technicality in the law, it has been suggested that the code be amended to permit approval of her license.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to require the Board of Psychology to waive the requirement that, in order to obtain full licensure as a psychologist, a person must have had a limited license for postdoctoral experience. Waiver would be required if the candidate had met all other requirements specified for limited licensure, paid a sum equal to the cost of a limited license, and applied for a license between July 1, 1985, and July 1, 1986.

Otherwise, the bill would not alter current licensure requirements.

MCL 333.18212

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact for either state or local governments.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

The bill would correct a situation in which a person was denied an opportunity to become a fully licensed psychologist because of a bureaucratic snafu. Since the candidate was fully qualified in all ways and had completed all other requirements necessary to obtaining a full license, and since the bill would affect only this one candidate, the professional standards required of psychologists would not be compromised by their relaxation in this instance.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

S.B. 24 (2-5-87)