

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40519-MVfqq-2 (03/29)

Short Title: Amend Psychology Practice Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Jordan, Zachary, and Malone (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH INACTIVE LICENSURE STATUS, TO REVISE RECORD  
RETENTION REQUIREMENTS, AND TO INCREASE FEES UNDER THE  
PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by  
adding a new section to read:

**"§ 90-270.14A. Inactive status.**

(a) The Board shall place a license on inactive status upon request of a licensee and payment of the inactive status fee prescribed in G.S. 90-270.18(b)(10). No person shall practice psychology in North Carolina unless that person holds a current active license. The Board may investigate complaints and take disciplinary action against an inactive status licensee. An inactive status license shall only be issued to a person who has previously been issued a license to practice psychology in North Carolina. Licensees on inactive status shall not hold themselves out to the public as licensed by the Board.

(b) In order to maintain inactive status, the inactive status fee prescribed in G.S. 90-270.18(b)(10) shall be paid at every renewal period. The inactive status licensee is exempt from continuing education requirements set forth in G.S. 90-270.14(a)(2).

(c) A licensee on inactive status may reactivate licensure by completing an application for reactivation, paying the reactivation fee prescribed in G.S. 90-270.18(b)(11), and completing any other reactivation requirements set forth by Board rules, which may include a criminal history record check, continuing education, fitness to practice evaluation, examination, and supervision."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 90-270.15(a) reads as rewritten:

**"§ 90-270.15. Denial, suspension, or revocation of licenses and health services provider certification, and other disciplinary and remedial actions for violations of the Code of Conduct; relinquishing of license.**

(a) Any applicant for licensure or health services provider certification and any person licensed or certified under this Article shall have behaved in conformity with the ethical and professional standards specified in this Code of Conduct and in the rules of the Board. The Board may deny, suspend, or revoke licensure and certification, and may discipline, place on probation, limit practice, and require examination, remediation, and rehabilitation, or any combination thereof, all as provided for in subsection (b) below. The Board shall act upon proof that the applicant or licensee engaged in illegal, immoral, dishonorable, unprofessional, or unethical conduct by violating any of the provisions of the Code of Conduct as follows:

...



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1 (6) Has had a license or certification for the practice of psychology or other  
 2 mental health profession in this State or in any other jurisdiction suspended  
 3 or revoked, or has been disciplined by ~~the a~~ licensing or certification board  
 4 in this State or in any other jurisdiction for conduct which would subject him  
 5 or her to discipline under this Article;

6 ...  
 7 (18) Except when prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond the  
 8 psychologist's control, has failed to retain securely and confidentially the  
 9 complete case record for at least seven years from the date of the last  
 10 provision of psychological services; ~~or, except when prevented from doing~~  
 11 ~~so by circumstances beyond the psychologist's control, has failed to retain~~  
 12 ~~securely and confidentially the complete case record for three years from the~~  
 13 ~~date of the attainment of majority age by the patient or client or for at least~~  
 14 ~~seven years from the date of the last provision of psychological services,~~  
 15 ~~whichever is longer; services; or, except when prevented from doing so by~~  
 16 circumstances beyond the psychologist's control, has failed to retain securely  
 17 and confidentially the complete case record indefinitely if there are pending  
 18 legal or ethical matters or if there is any other compelling circumstance;

19 ...."

20 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 90-270.18(b) reads as rewritten:

21 "(b) Fees for activities specified by this Article are as follows:

- 22 (1) Application fees for licensed psychologists and licensed psychological  
 23 associates per G.S. 90-270.11(a) and (b)(1), or G.S. 90-270.13, shall ~~not~~  
 24 ~~exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00).~~ be the cost of application as set by the  
 25 vendor, if applicable, plus an additional fee not to exceed three hundred  
 26 dollars (\$300.00). The Board may require applicants to pay the fee directly  
 27 to the vendor.
- 28 (2) Fees for the national written examination shall be the cost of the examination  
 29 as set by the vendor plus an additional fee not to exceed fifty dollars  
 30 (\$50.00). The Board may require applicants to pay the fee directly to the  
 31 vendor.
- 32 (3) Fees for additional examinations shall be as prescribed by the Board.
- 33 (4) Fees for the renewal of licenses, per G.S. 90-270.14(a)(1), shall not exceed  
 34 ~~two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)~~ four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per  
 35 biennium. This fee may not be prorated.
- 36 (5) Late fees for license renewal, per G.S. 90-270.14(a)(1), shall be ~~twenty-five~~  
 37 ~~dollars (\$25.00).~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).
- 38 (6) Fees for the reinstatement of a license, per G.S. 90-270.15(f), shall not  
 39 exceed ~~one hundred dollars (\$100.00).~~ two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- 40 (7) Fees for a duplicate license, per G.S. 90-270.14(b), shall be ~~twenty-five~~  
 41 ~~dollars (\$25.00).~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).
- 42 (8) Fees for a temporary license, per G.S. 90-270.5(f) and 90-270.5(g), shall be  
 43 ~~thirty-five dollars (\$35.00).~~ fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- 44 (9) Application fees for a health services provider certificate, per  
 45 G.S. 90-270.20, shall be ~~fifty dollars (\$50.00).~~ one hundred dollars  
 46 (\$100.00).
- 47 (10) Fees to place a license on inactive status, per G.S. 90-270.14A, shall not  
 48 exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for every renewal period.
- 49 (11) Fees for reactivation of an inactive status license, per G.S. 90-270.14A(c),  
 50 shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00)."

51 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 90-270.22(a) reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 90-270.22. Criminal history record checks of applicants for licensure and licensees.**

2 (a) The Board may request that an applicant for ~~licensure or reinstatement of a license~~  
3 licensure, reinstatement, or reactivation of a license, or that a licensed psychologist or  
4 psychological associate currently under investigation by the Board for allegedly violating this  
5 ~~Article~~ Article, consent to a criminal history record check. Refusal to consent to a criminal  
6 history record check may constitute grounds for the Board to deny ~~licensure or reinstatement~~  
7 licensure, reinstatement, or reactivation of a license to an applicant or take disciplinary action  
8 against a licensee, including revocation of a license. The Board shall be responsible for  
9 providing to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety the fingerprints of the applicant or  
10 licensee to be checked, a form signed by the applicant or licensee consenting to the criminal  
11 record check and the use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State  
12 or National Repositories, and any additional information required by the Department of Public  
13 Safety. The Board shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential.

14 The Board shall collect any fees required by the Department of Public Safety and shall  
15 remit the fees to the Department of Public Safety for the cost of conducting the criminal history  
16 record check."

17 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.