

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 1990

S.P. 802

In Senate, December 5, 2025

An Act to Update the Requirements for Psychology Licensure

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BAILEY of York.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** current law governing qualification for licensure as a psychologist
4 disqualifies candidates who failed an examination within the preceding 6 months,
5 preventing the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists from granting licensure to
6 candidates who subsequently passed the examination within the 6-month period; and

7 **Whereas,** one of the primary responsibilities of the board is to review the credentials
8 of qualified candidates for licensure as psychologists and to grant licensure without delay
9 in response to behavioral health workforce shortages, increasing access to behavioral health
10 care services; and

11 **Whereas,** this legislation must take effect as soon as possible to better allow the board
12 to quickly respond to the behavioral health workforce shortage; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore,

17 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

18 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3831, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §1, is further
19 amended to read:

20 **2. Psychologist.** A candidate for this license shall furnish the board with satisfactory
21 evidence that the candidate is trustworthy and competent to practice as a psychologist in
22 such manner as to safeguard the interest of the public; has received a doctorate degree
23 reflecting comprehensive training in psychology from an accredited institution recognized
24 by the board as maintaining satisfactory standards, at the time the degree was granted; has
25 had at least 2 years of experience in psychology of a type considered by the board to be
26 qualifying in nature; is competent in psychology, as shown by passing such examinations
27 as the board determines necessary; ~~and is not considered by the board to be engaged in~~
28 ~~unethical practice; and has not within the preceding 6 months failed an examination.~~ The
29 board shall recognize that valid comprehensive training in psychology must be received in
30 or accepted by a single program, but may be obtained through a degree given by
31 administrative units other than a department of psychology, including programs approved
32 by the National Association of School Psychologists or the American Psychological
33 Association designation program or their successors or other organizations approved by the
34 board. The board shall adopt a list of these programs. Individuals with degrees from
35 programs not on that list must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

36 Beginning January 1, 2020, a candidate for initial licensure shall furnish the board with
37 satisfactory evidence that the candidate has successfully completed a minimum of 3 hours
38 of course work in family or intimate partner violence screening and referral and
39 intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors,
40 evidence-based risk assessment and same-gender abuse dynamics. A candidate may fulfill
41 this requirement through course work taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements
42 for licensure or through separate course work provided through any combination of contact
43 hours, Internet hours and distance learning programs, as evidenced by certification from an

1 accredited educational institution. The board shall accept certification from the accredited
2 educational institution from which the applicant is a graduate that verifies the applicant's
3 satisfaction of this requirement within the applicant's completed course curriculum. A
4 candidate for initial licensure that is unable to demonstrate completion of the requirement
5 of 3 hours of course work at the time the initial application is submitted shall demonstrate
6 to the board that this requirement has been fulfilled upon the candidate's first application
7 for license renewal.

8 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
9 takes effect when approved.

10 SUMMARY

11 This bill modifies licensure requirements for psychologists by allowing the State Board
12 of Examiners of Psychologists to accept applications for licensure at any time after
13 successful passage of the qualifying examination. Current law prevents the board from
14 accepting such applications within 6 months of failure of the examination.