MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

By: Senator(s) Fillingane

REGULAR SESSION 2024

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2157 (As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT 2 AND PROVIDE THAT THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ENTERS THE COMPACT WITH OTHER STATES THAT JOIN IN THE COMPACT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-31-7, 73-31-13, 73-31-14, 73-31-15, 73-31-21 AND 73-31-23, MISSISSIPPI 3 4 CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT; TO BRING 5 6 FORWARD SECTIONS 73-31-9, 73-31-25 AND 73-31-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE 7 OF 1972, FOR POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 9 SECTION 1. The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact is 10 enacted into law and entered into by this state with any and all 11 states legally joining in the Compact in accordance with its 12 terms, in the form substantially as follows: PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT 13 14 ARTICLE I. 15 PURPOSE. 16 Whereas, states license psychologists, in order to protect the public through verification of education, training and 17 18 experience and ensure accountability for professional practice; 19 and

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~	G3/5
24/SS26/R575PS		
PAGE 1		

Whereas, this Compact is intended to regulate the day-to-day practice of telepsychology (i.e., the provision of psychological services using telecommunication technologies) by psychologists across state boundaries in the performance of their psychological practice as assigned by an appropriate authority; and

25 Whereas, this Compact is intended to regulate the temporary 26 in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology by psychologists 27 across state boundaries for thirty (30) days within a calendar 28 year in the performance of their psychological practice as 29 assigned by an appropriate authority; and

30 Whereas, this Compact is intended to authorize state 31 psychology regulatory authorities to afford legal recognition, in 32 a manner consistent with the terms of the Compact, to 33 psychologists licensed in another state; and

Whereas, this Compact recognizes that states have a vested interest in protecting the public's health and safety through their licensing and regulation of psychologists and that such state regulation will best protect public health and safety; and

38 Whereas, this Compact does not apply when a psychologist is 39 licensed in both the home and receiving states; and

Whereas, this Compact does not apply to permanent in-person, face-to-face practice, but it does allow for authorization of temporary psychological practice.

43 Consistent with these principles, this Compact is designed to 44 achieve the following purposes and objectives:

45 1. Increase public access to professional psychological 46 services by allowing for telepsychological practice across state lines as well as temporary in-person, face-to-face services into a 47 state which the psychologist is not licensed to practice 48 49 psychology; 50 2. Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially client/patient safety; 51

52 3. Encourage the cooperation of Compact states in the 53 areas of psychology licensure and regulation;

54 4. Facilitate the exchange of information between
55 Compact states regarding psychologist licensure, adverse actions
56 and disciplinary history;

57 5. Promote compliance with the laws governing 58 psychological practice in each Compact state; and

59 6. Invest all Compact states with the authority to hold
60 licensed psychologists accountable through the mutual recognition
61 of Compact state licenses.

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ARTICLE II.

DEFINITIONS.

64 As used in this Compact, the following terms have the 65 following meanings:

1. "Adverse action" means any action taken by a state
psychology regulatory authority which finds a violation of a
statute or regulation that is identified by the state psychology

69 regulatory authority as discipline and is a matter of public 70 record.

2. "Association of State and Provincial Psychology
Boards (ASPPB)" means the recognized membership organization
composed of state and provincial psychology regulatory authorities
responsible for the licensure and registration of psychologists
throughout the United States and Canada.

3. "Authority to practice interjurisdictional
telepsychology" means a licensed psychologist's authority to
practice telepsychology, within the limits authorized under this
Compact, in another Compact state.

4. "Bylaws" means those bylaws established by the
Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission pursuant to
Article X of the Compact for its governance, or for directing and
controlling its actions and conduct.

5. "Client/patient" means the recipient of psychological services, whether psychological services are delivered in the context of health care, corporate, supervision, and/or consulting services.

88 6. "Commissioner" means the voting representative
89 appointed by each state psychology regulatory authority pursuant
90 to Article X of the Compact.

91 7. "Compact state" means a state, the District of 92 Columbia, or United States territory that has enacted this Compact 93 legislation and which has not withdrawn pursuant to Article XIII,

94 Section C of the Compact or been terminated pursuant to Article 95 XII, Section B of the Compact.

96 8. "Coordinated licensure information system" also 97 referred to as "coordinated database" means an integrated process 98 for collecting, storing, and sharing information on psychologists' 99 licensure and enforcement activities related to psychology 100 licensure laws, which is administered by the recognized membership 101 organization composed of state and provincial psychology 102 regulatory authorities.

9. "Confidentiality" means the principle that data or information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorized persons and/or processes.

106 10. "Day" means any part of a day in which107 psychological work is performed.

108 11. "Distant state" means the Compact state where a 109 psychologist is physically present (not through the use of 110 telecommunications technologies), to provide temporary in-person, 111 face-to-face psychological services.

112 12. "E-Passport" means a certificate issued by the 113 Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) that 114 promotes the standardization in the criteria of 115 interjurisdictional telepsychology practice and facilitates the 116 process for licensed psychologists to provide telepsychological

117 services across state lines.

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 5 118 13. "Executive board" means a group of directors 119 elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers 120 granted to them by, the commission.

121 14. "Home state" means a Compact state where a 122 psychologist is licensed to practice psychology. If the 123 psychologist is licensed in more than one (1) Compact state and is 124 practicing under the authorization to practice interjurisdictional 125 telepsychology, the home state is the Compact state where the 126 psychologist is physically present when the telepsychological 127 services are delivered. If the psychologist is licensed in more 128 than one (1) Compact state and is practicing under the temporary 129 authorization to practice, the home state is any Compact state 130 where the psychologist is licensed.

131 15. "Identity history summary" means a summary of 132 information retained by the FBI, or other designee with similar 133 authority, in connection with arrests and, in some instances, 134 federal employment, naturalization, or military service.

135 16. "In-person, face-to-face" means interactions in 136 which the psychologist and the client/patient are in the same 137 physical space and which does not include interactions that may 138 occur through the use of telecommunication technologies.

139 17. "Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC)" 140 means a certificate issued by the Association of State and 141 Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) that grants temporary 142 authority to practice based on notification to the state

143 psychology regulatory authority of intention to practice 144 temporarily, and verification of one's qualifications for such 145 practice.

146 18. "License" means authorization by a state psychology 147 regulatory authority to engage in the independent practice of 148 psychology, which would be unlawful without the authorization.

149 19. "Non-Compact state" means any state that is not at 150 the time a Compact state.

151 20. "Psychologist" means an individual licensed for the 152 independent practice of psychology.

153 21. "Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission" 154 also referred to as "commission" means the national administration 155 of which all Compact states are members.

156 22. "Receiving state" means a Compact state where the 157 client/patient is physically located when the telepsychological 158 services are delivered.

159 23. "Rule" means a written statement by the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission promulgated pursuant to 160 161 Article XI of the Compact that is of general applicability, 162 implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the 163 Compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement 164 of the commission and has the force and effect of statutory law in 165 a Compact state, and includes the amendment, repeal or suspension 166 of an existing rule.

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24. "Significant investigatory information" means:

a. Investigative information that a state psychology regulatory authority, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe, if proven true, would indicate more than a violation of state statute or ethics code that would be considered more substantial than minor infraction; or

b. Investigative information that indicates that the psychologist represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the psychologist has been notified and/or had an opportunity to respond.

17825. "State" means a state, commonwealth, territory, or179possession of the United States, the District of Columbia.

180 26. "State psychology regulatory authority" means the 181 board, office or other agency with the legislative mandate to 182 license and regulate the practice of psychology.

183 27. "Telepsychology" means the provision of184 psychological services using telecommunication technologies.

185 28. "Temporary authorization to practice" means a 186 licensed psychologist's authority to conduct temporary in-person, 187 face-to-face practice, within the limits authorized under this 188 Compact, in another Compact state.

189 29. "Temporary in-person, face-to-face practice" means 190 where a psychologist is physically present (not through the use of 191 telecommunications technologies), in the distant state to provide

192 for the practice of psychology for thirty (30) days within a 193 calendar year and based on notification to the distant state. 194 ARTICLE III. 195 HOME STATE LICENSURE. 196 The home state shall be a Compact state where a Α. 197 psychologist is licensed to practice psychology. 198 B. A psychologist may hold one or more Compact state 199 licenses at a time. If the psychologist is licensed in more than 200 one (1) Compact state, the home state is the Compact state where 201 the psychologist is physically present when the services are 202 delivered as authorized by the authority to practice 203 interjurisdictional telepsychology under the terms of this 204 Compact. 205 Any Compact state may require a psychologist not С. 206 previously licensed in a Compact state to obtain and retain a 207 license to be authorized to practice in the Compact state under 208 circumstances not authorized by the authority to practice 209 interjurisdictional telepsychology under the terms of this 210 Compact. 211 Any Compact state may require a psychologist to obtain D. 212 and retain a license to be authorized to practice in a Compact 213 state under circumstances not authorized by temporary 214 authorization to practice under the terms of this Compact.

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 9

~ OFFICIAL ~

215 Е. A home state's license authorizes a psychologist to 216 practice in a receiving state under the authority to practice 217 interjurisdictional telepsychology only if the Compact state: 218 Currently requires the psychologist to hold an 1. 219 active E-Passport; 220 2. Has a mechanism in place for receiving and 221 investigating complaints about licensed individuals; 222 3. Notifies the commission, in compliance with the 223 terms herein, of any adverse action or significant investigatory 224 information regarding a licensed individual; 225 4. Requires an identity history summary of all

applicants at initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprints or other biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or other designee with similar authority, no later than ten (10) years after activation of the Compact; and

5. Complies with the bylaws and rules of the commission.

F. A home state's license grants temporary authorization to practice to a psychologist in a distant state only if the Compact state:

Currently requires the psychologist to hold an
 active IPC;

238 2. Has a mechanism in place for receiving and239 investigating complaints about licensed individuals;

3. Notifies the commission, in compliance with the
terms herein, of any adverse action or significant investigatory
information regarding a licensed individual;

4. Requires an identity history summary of all applicants at initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprints or other biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or other designee with similar authority, no later than ten (10) years after activation of the Compact; and

249 5. Complies with the bylaws and rules of the250 commission.

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ARTICLE IV.

COMPACT PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE TELEPSYCHOLOGY.

A. Compact states shall recognize the right of a psychologist, licensed in a Compact state in conformance with Article III of the Compact, to practice telepsychology in other Compact states (receiving states) in which the psychologist is not licensed, under the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology as provided in the Compact.

B. To exercise the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology under the terms and provisions of this Compact, a psychologist licensed to practice in a Compact state must:

262 1. Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an 263 institute of higher education that was, at the time the degree was 264 awarded:

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 11	

a. Regionally accredited by an accrediting body
recognized by the United States Department of Education to grant
graduate degrees, or authorized by provincial statute or royal
charter to grant doctoral degrees; or

269 b. A foreign college or university deemed to be 270 equivalent to paragraph a. of this subsection 1 by a foreign 271 credential evaluation service that is a member of the National 272 Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or by a 273 recognized foreign credential evaluation service;

274 2. Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets the 275 following criteria:

a. The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology program. Such a program must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train professional psychologists;

281 b. The psychology program must stand as a 282 recognizable, coherent, organizational entity within the 283 institution;

284 c. There must be a clear authority and primary 285 responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the 286 program cuts across administrative lines;

287 d. The program must consist of an integrated,288 organized sequence of study;

289 There must be an identifiable psychology e. 290 faculty sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its 291 responsibilities; 292 f. The designated director of the program must be 293 a psychologist and a member of the core faculty; 294 The program must have an identifiable body of α. 295 students who are matriculated in that program for a degree; 296 The program must include supervised practicum, h. 297 internship, or field training appropriate to the practice of 298 psychology; 299 i. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of 300 three (3) academic years of full-time graduate study for a 301 doctoral degree and a minimum of one (1) academic year of 302 full-time graduate study for a master's degree; 303 j. The program includes an acceptable residency as 304 defined by the rules of the commission; 305 3. Possess a current, full and unrestricted license to 306 practice psychology in a home state which is a Compact state; 307 4. Have no history of adverse action that violate the rules of the commission; 308 5. 309 Have no criminal record history reported on an 310 identity history summary that violates the rules of the 311 commission; 312 6. Possess a current, active E-Passport;

313 7. Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended 314 practice, conformity with standards of practice, competence in 315 telepsychology technology; criminal background; and knowledge and 316 adherence to legal requirements in the home and receiving states, 317 and provide a release of information to allow for primary source 318 verification in a manner specified by the commission; and

319 8. Meet other criteria as defined by the rules of the320 commission.

321 C. The home state maintains authority over the license of 322 any psychologist practicing into a receiving state under the 323 authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology.

324 D. A psychologist practicing into a receiving state under 325 the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology will 326 be subject to the receiving state's scope of practice. A 327 receiving state may, in accordance with that state's due process 328 law, limit or revoke a psychologist's authority to practice 329 interjurisdictional telepsychology in the receiving state and may take any other necessary actions under the receiving state's 330 331 applicable law to protect the health and safety of the receiving 332 state's citizens. If a receiving state takes action, the state 333 shall promptly notify the home state and the commission.

E. If a psychologist's license in any home state, another Compact state, or any authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology in any receiving state, is restricted, suspended or otherwise limited, the E-Passport shall be revoked and therefore,

338 the psychologist shall not be eligible to practice telepsychology 339 in a Compact state under the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology. 340 341 ARTICLE V. 342 COMPACT TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO PRACTICE. 343 Α. Compact states shall also recognize the right of a 344 psychologist, licensed in a Compact state in conformance with 345 Article III of the Compact, to practice temporarily in other 346 Compact states (distant states) in which the psychologist is not 347 licensed, as provided in the Compact. 348 Β. To exercise the temporary authorization to practice under 349 the terms and provisions of this Compact, a psychologist licensed 350 to practice in a Compact state must: 351 Hold a graduate degree in psychology from an 1. 352 institute of higher education that was, at the time the degree was 353 awarded: 354 Regionally accredited by an accrediting body a. 355 recognized by the United States Department of Education to grant 356 graduate degrees, or authorized by provincial statute or royal 357 charter to grant doctoral degrees; or 358 b. A foreign college or university deemed to be 359 equivalent to paragraph a. of this subsection 1 by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National

361 Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or by a recognized foreign credential evaluation service; 362

S. B. No. 2157 ~ OFFICIAL ~ 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 15

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363 2. Hold a graduate degree in psychology that meets the 364 following criteria:

a. The program, wherever it may be
administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as
a psychology program. Such a program must specify in pertinent
institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and
train professional psychologists;

370 b. The psychology program must stand as a 371 recognizable, coherent, organizational entity within the 372 institution;

373 c. There must be a clear authority and primary 374 responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the 375 program cuts across administrative lines;

376 d. The program must consist of an integrated,377 organized sequence of study;

378 e. There must be an identifiable psychology
379 faculty sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its
380 responsibilities;

381 f. The designated director of the program must be 382 a psychologist and a member of the core faculty;

383 g. The program must have an identifiable body of 384 students who are matriculated in that program for a degree; 385 h. The program must include supervised practicum, 386 internship, or field training appropriate to the practice of

387 psychology;

388 i. The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of
389 three (3) academic years of full-time graduate study for doctoral
390 degrees and a minimum of one (1) academic year of full-time
391 graduate study for master's degree;

392 j. The program includes an acceptable residency as 393 defined by the rules of the commission;

394 3. Possess a current, full and unrestricted license to395 practice psychology in a home state which is a Compact state;

3964. No history of adverse action that violate the rules397 of the commission;

398 5. No criminal record history that violates the rules 399 of the commission;

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6. Possess a current, active IPC;

401 7. Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended 402 practice and work experience and provide a release of information 403 to allow for primary source verification in a manner specified by 404 the commission; and

405 8. Meet other criteria as defined by the rules of the406 commission.

407 C. A psychologist practicing into a distant state under the 408 temporary authorization to practice shall practice within the 409 scope of practice authorized by the distant state.

D. A psychologist practicing in a distant state under the temporary authorization to practice will be subject to the distant state's authority and law. A distant state may, in accordance

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 17	

413 with that state's due process law, limit or revoke a 414 psychologist's temporary authorization to practice in the distant 415 state and may take any other necessary actions under the distant 416 state's applicable law to protect the health and safety of the 417 distant state's citizens. If a distant state takes action, the 418 state shall promptly notify the home state and the commission.

E. If a psychologist's license in any home state, another Compact state, or any temporary authorization to practice in any distant state, is restricted, suspended or otherwise limited, the IPC shall be revoked and therefore, the psychologist shall not be eligible to practice in a Compact state under the temporary authorization to practice.

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ARTICLE VI.

426 CONDITIONS OF TELEPSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE IN A RECEIVING STATE.

A psychologist may practice in a receiving state under the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology only in the performance of the scope of practice for psychology as assigned by an appropriate state psychology regulatory authority, as defined in the rules of the commission, and under the following circumstances:

1. The psychologist initiates a client/patient contact
in a home state via telecommunications technologies with a
client/patient in a receiving state;

436 2. Other conditions regarding telepsychology as437 determined by rules promulgated by the commission.

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ARTICLE VII.

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ADVERSE ACTIONS.

A. A home state shall have the power to impose adverse action against a psychologist's license issued by the home state. A distant state shall have the power to take adverse action on a psychologist's temporary authorization to practice within that distant state.

B. A receiving state may take adverse action on a psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology within that receiving state. A home state may take adverse action against a psychologist based on an adverse action taken by a distant state regarding temporary in-person, face-to-face practice.

C. If a home state takes adverse action against a psychologist's license, that psychologist's authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology is terminated and the E-Passport is revoked. Furthermore, that psychologist's temporary authorization to practice is terminated and the IPC is revoked.

456 1. All home state disciplinary orders which impose 457 adverse action shall be reported to the commission in accordance 458 with the rules promulgated by the commission. A Compact state 459 shall report adverse actions in accordance with the rules of the 460 commission.

461 2. If discipline is reported on a psychologist, the462 psychologist will not be eligible for telepsychology or temporary

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 19	

463 in-person, face-to-face practice in accordance with the rules of 464 the commission.

3. Other actions may be imposed as determined by therules promulgated by the commission.

D. A home state's psychology regulatory authority shall investigate and take appropriate action with respect to reported inappropriate conduct engaged in by a licensee which occurred in a receiving state as it would if such conduct had occurred by a licensee within the home state. In such cases, the home state's law shall control in determining any adverse action against a psychologist's license.

474 A distant state's psychology regulatory authority shall Ε. 475 investigate and take appropriate action with respect to reported 476 inappropriate conduct engaged in by a psychologist practicing 477 under temporary authorization practice which occurred in that 478 distant state as it would if such conduct had occurred by a 479 licensee within the home state. In such cases, distant state's 480 law shall control in determining any adverse action against a 481 psychologist's temporary authorization to practice.

F. Nothing in this Compact shall override a Compact state's decision that a psychologist's participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall remain nonpublic if required by the Compact state's law. Compact states must require psychologists who enter any alternative programs to not provide telepsychology services

~ OFFICIAL ~

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 20 488 under the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology 489 or provide temporary psychological services under the temporary 490 authorization to practice in any other Compact state during the 491 term of the alternative program.

G. No other judicial or administrative remedies shall be
available to a psychologist if a Compact state imposes an adverse
action pursuant to Section C of this Article.

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ARTICLE VIII.

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ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES INVESTED IN A COMPACT

STATE'S PSYCHOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

A. In addition to any other powers granted under state law, A. In addition to any other powers granted under state law, a Compact state's psychology regulatory authority shall have the authority under this Compact to:

501 Issue subpoenas, for both hearings and 1. 502 investigations, which require the attendance and testimony of 503 witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a 504 Compact state's psychology regulatory authority for the attendance 505 and testimony of witnesses, and/or the production of evidence from 506 another Compact state, shall be enforced in the latter state by 507 any court of competent jurisdiction, according to that court's 508 practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued in its own 509 proceedings. The issuing state psychology regulatory authority 510 shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other 511 fees required by the service statutes of the state where the witnesses and/or evidence are located; and 512

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 21

~ OFFICIAL ~

513 2. Issue cease and desist and/or injunctive relief 514 orders to revoke a psychologist's authority to practice 515 interjurisdictional telepsychology and/or temporary authorization 516 to practice.

517 During the course of any investigation, a psychologist Β. 518 may not change his/her home state licensure. A home state 519 psychology regulatory authority is authorized to complete any 520 pending investigations of a psychologist and to take any actions 521 appropriate under its law. The home state psychology regulatory 522 authority shall promptly report the conclusions of such 523 investigations to the commission. Once an investigation has been 524 completed, and pending the outcome of the investigation, the 525 psychologist may change his/her home state licensure. The 526 commission shall promptly notify the new home state of any such 527 decisions as provided in the rules of the commission. All 528 information provided to the commission or distributed by Compact 529 states pursuant to the psychologist shall be confidential, filed 530 under seal and used for investigatory or disciplinary matters. 531 The commission may create additional rules for mandated or 532 discretionary sharing of information by Compact states.

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ARTICLE IX.

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COORDINATED LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM.

535 A. The commission shall provide for the development and 536 maintenance of a coordinated licensure information system 537 (coordinated database) and reporting system containing licensure

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 22	

538 and disciplinary action information on all psychologist

539 individuals to whom this Compact is applicable in all Compact

540 states as defined by the rules of the commission.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a Compact state shall submit a uniform data set to the coordinated database on all licensees as required by the rules of the commission, including:

Identifying information;

545

546 2. Licensure data;

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547 3. Significant investigatory information;
548 4. Adverse actions against a psychologist's license;
549 5. An indicator that a psychologist's authority to
550 practice interjurisdictional telepsychology and/or temporary
551 authorization to practice is revoked;

552 6. Nonconfidential information related to alternative 553 program participation information;

554 7. Any denial of application for licensure, and the 555 reasons for such denial; and

556 8. Other information which may facilitate the 557 administration of this Compact, as determined by the rules of the 558 commission.

559 C. The coordinated database administrator shall promptly 560 notify all Compact states of any adverse action taken against, or 561 significant investigative information on, any licensee in a 562 Compact state.

563 D. Compact states reporting information to the coordinated 564 database may designate information that may not be shared with the 565 public without the express permission of the Compact state 566 reporting the information.

567 E. Any information submitted to the coordinated database 568 that is subsequently required to be expunged by the law of the 569 Compact state reporting the information shall be removed from the 570 coordinated database.

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ARTICLE X.

The commission is a body politic and an

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PSYCHOLOGY

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INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT COMMISSION.

A. The Compact states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission.

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578 instrumentality of the Compact states.

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2. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

585 3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a 586 waiver of sovereign immunity.

587 B. Membership, voting, and meetings.

1. The commission shall consist of one (1) voting representative appointed by each Compact state who shall serve as that state's commissioner. The state psychology regulatory authority shall appoint its delegate. This delegate shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Compact state. This delegate shall be limited to:

594 a. Executive director, executive secretary or 595 similar executive;

596 b. Current member of the state psychology 597 regulatory authority of a Compact state; or

598 c. Designee empowered with the appropriate 599 delegate authority to act on behalf of the Compact state.

2. Any commissioner may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the commissioner is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the Compact state in which the vacancy exists.

605 Each commissioner shall be entitled to one (1) vote 3. 606 with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws 607 and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the 608 business and affairs of the commission. A commissioner shall vote 609 in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The 610 bylaws may provide for commissioners' participation in meetings by 611 telephone or other means of communication.

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 25

~ OFFICIAL ~

612 4. The commission shall meet at least once during each
613 calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in
614 the bylaws.

5. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public
notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required
under the rulemaking provisions in Article XI of the Compact.

6. The commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic619 meeting if the commission must discuss:

a. Noncompliance of a Compact state with itsobligations under the Compact;

b. The employment, compensation, discipline or other personnel matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

626 c. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated627 litigation against the commission;

628 d. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or 629 sale of goods, services or real estate;

e. Accusation against any person of a crime orformally censuring any person;

632 f. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or 633 financial information which is privileged or confidential;

g. Disclosure of information of a personal nature
where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion
of personal privacy;

h. Disclosure of investigatory records compiledfor law enforcement purposes;

i. Disclosure of information related to any
investigatory reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of
the commission or other committee charged with responsibility for
investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to
the Compact; or

644 j. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure645 by federal and state statute.

646 7. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed 647 pursuant to this provision, the commission's legal counsel or 648 designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall 649 reference each relevant exempting provision. The commission shall 650 keep minutes which fully and clearly describe all matters 651 discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate 652 summary of actions taken, of any person participating in the 653 meeting, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the 654 views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an 655 action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and 656 documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to 657 release only by a majority vote of the commission or order of a 658 court of competent jurisdiction.

C. The commission shall, by a majority vote of thecommissioners, prescribe bylaws and/or rules to govern its conduct

661 as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and 662 exercise the powers of the Compact, including, but not limited to:

Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

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664 2. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:

1.

a. For the establishment and meetings of othercommittees; and

667 b. Governing any general or specific delegation of668 any authority or function of the commission;

669 3. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the commission, ensuring reasonable advance 670 671 notice of all meetings and providing an opportunity for attendance 672 of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions 673 designed to protect the public's interest, the privacy of 674 individuals of such proceedings, and proprietary information, 675 including trade secrets. The commission may meet in closed 676 session only after a majority of the commissioners vote to close a 677 meeting to the public, in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the commission must make public a copy of the vote to 678 679 close the meeting revealing the vote of each commissioner with no 680 proxy votes allowed;

4. Establishing the titles, duties and authority and
reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the
commission;

5. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the

686 commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar 687 law of any Compact state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the 688 personnel policies and programs of the commission;

689 6. Promulgating a Code of Ethics to address permissible 690 and prohibited activities of commission members and employees;

691 7. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations
692 of the commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus
693 funds that may exist after the termination of the Compact after
694 the payment and/or reserving of all of its debts and obligations;

8. The commission shall publish its bylaws in a
convenient form and file a copy thereof and a copy of any
amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer in each
of the Compact states;

699 9. The commission shall maintain its financial records700 in accordance with the bylaws; and

701 10. The commission shall meet and take such actions as
702 are consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the bylaws.
703 D. The commission shall have the following powers:

The authority to promulgate uniform rules to
 facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of
 this Compact. The rule shall have the force and effect of law and
 shall be binding in all Compact states;

708 2. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions
709 in the name of the commission, provided that the standing of any
710 state psychology regulatory authority or other regulatory body

711 responsible for psychology licensure to sue or be sued under 712 applicable law shall not be affected;

713 3. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
714 4. To borrow, accept or contract for services of
715 personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a Compact
716 state;

5. To hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and to establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;

6. To accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;

728 7. To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or 729 donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any 730 property, real, personal or mixed; provided that at all times the 731 commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;

732 8. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,
733 abandon or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal or
734 mixed;

735

9. To establish a budget and make expenditures;

736

10. To borrow money;

737 To appoint committees, including advisory 11. 738 committees comprised of members, state regulators, state 739 legislators or their representatives, and consumer 740 representatives, and such other interested persons as may be 741 designated in this Compact and the bylaws; 742 To provide and receive information from, and to 12. 743 cooperate with, law enforcement agencies; 744 13. To adopt and use an official seal; and 745 14. To perform such other functions as may be necessary 746 or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact consistent 747 with the state regulation of psychology licensure, temporary 748 in-person, face-to-face practice and telepsychology practice. 749 The executive board. Ε. 750 The elected officers shall serve as the executive board, 751 which shall have the power to act on behalf of the commission 752 according to the terms of this Compact. 753 The executive board shall be comprised of six (6) 1. 754 members: 755 Five (5) voting members who are elected from a. 756 the current membership of the commission by the commission; 757 b. One (1) ex officio, nonvoting member from the 758 recognized membership organization composed of state and 759 provincial psychology regulatory authorities.

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 31	

760 2. The ex officio member must have served as staff or 761 member on a state psychology regulatory authority and will be 762 selected by its respective organization. 763 3. The commission may remove any member of the 764 executive board as provided in the bylaws. 765 4. The executive board shall meet at least annually. 766 5. The executive board shall have the following duties 767 and responsibilities: 768 a. Recommend to the entire commission changes to 769 the rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees 770 paid by Compact states such as annual dues, and any other 771 applicable fees; 772 b. Ensure Compact administration services are 773 appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise; 774 с. Prepare and recommend the budget; 775 d. Maintain financial records on behalf of the 776 commission; 777 Monitor Compact compliance of member states and e. 778 provide compliance reports to the commission; 779 f. Establish additional committees as necessary; 780 and 781 q. Other duties as provided in rules or bylaws. 782 F. Financing of the commission.

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 32 ~ OFFICIAL ~

783 1. The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment 784 of the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and 785 ongoing activities.

786 2. The commission may accept any and all appropriate
787 revenue sources, donations and grants of money, equipment,
788 supplies, materials and services.

789 The commission may levy on and collect an annual 3. 790 assessment from each Compact state or impose fees on other parties 791 to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the 792 commission and its staff which must be in a total amount 793 sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for 794 which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate 795 annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula 796 to be determined by the commission which shall promulgate a rule 797 binding upon all Compact states.

The commission shall not incur obligations of any
kind before securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor
shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the Compact
states, except by and with the authority of the Compact state.

5. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the

808 report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the 809 annual report of the commission.

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G. Qualified immunity, defense and indemnification.

811 1. The members, officers, executive director, employees 812 and representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit 813 and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, 814 for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or 815 816 alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for 817 818 believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, 819 duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this 820 paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit 821 and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury or liability caused 822 by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

823 2. The commission shall defend any member, officer, 824 executive director, employee or representative of the commission 825 in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any 826 actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the 827 scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or 828 that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable 829 basis for believing the act occurred within the scope of 830 commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that 831 nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from 832 retaining his or her own counsel; and provided further, that the

~ OFFICIAL ~

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 34 833 actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from that 834 person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

835 3. The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any 836 member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of 837 the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment 838 obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged 839 act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of 840 commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such 841 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties or responsibilities, 842 843 provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not 844 result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of 845 that person.

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ARTICLE XI.

A. The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this article and the rules adopted under this Compact. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

B. If a majority of the legislatures of the Compact states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any Compact state.

856 C. Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a 857 regular or special meeting of the commission.

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 35	

D. Before promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

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1. On the website of the commission; and

2. On the website of each Compact states' psychology regulatory authority or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

866 E. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

867 1. The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting868 in which the rule will be considered and voted upon;

869 2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the870 reason for the proposed rule;

871 3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any872 interested person; and

4. The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

F. Before adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

G. The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 36 ~ OFFICIAL ~

882 1. At least twenty-five (25) persons who submit883 comments independently of each other;

2. A governmental subdivision or agency; or
3. A duly appointed person in an association that has
at least twenty-five (25) members.

H. If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing.

All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall
 notify the executive director of the commission or other
 designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify
 at the hearing not less than five (5) business days before the
 scheduled date of the hearing.

895 2. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing
896 each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable
897 opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

3. No transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is made, in which case the person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of producing the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions as a transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the commission from making a transcript or recording of the hearing if it so chooses.

905 4. Nothing in this article shall be construed as906 requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped

907 for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this 908 article.

909 I. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of 910 business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not 911 held, the commission shall consider all written and oral comments 912 received.

J. The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

917 K. If no written notice of intent to attend the public 918 hearing by interested parties is received, the commission may 919 proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public 920 hearing.

921 Upon determination that an emergency exists, the L. 922 commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior 923 notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the 924 usual rulemaking procedures provided in the Compact and in this 925 article shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as 926 reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days after 927 the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this 928 provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted 929 immediately in order to:

930930931 welfare;

932 2. Prevent a loss of commission or Compact state funds;
933 3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an
934 administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or

935

4. Protect public health and safety.

936 М. The commission or an authorized committee of the 937 commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or 938 amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors 939 in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public 940 notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any 941 942 person for a period of thirty (30) days after posting. The 943 revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision 944 results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made 945 in writing, and delivered to the chair of the commission before 946 the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the 947 revision will take effect without further action. If the revision 948 is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the 949 approval of the commission.

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ARTICLE XII.

OVERSIGHT, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

952 A. Oversight.

953 1. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of 954 state government in each Compact state shall enforce this Compact 955 and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the 956 Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this Compact and

957 the rules promulgated under this Compact shall have standing as 958 statutory law.

959 2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the Compact 960 and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a 961 Compact state pertaining to the subject matter of this Compact 962 which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the 963 commission.

3. The commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the commission, this Compact or promulgated rules.

970 B. Default, technical assistance and termination.

971 1. If the commission determines that a Compact state 972 has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or 973 responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated rules, the 974 commission shall:

975 a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state
976 and other Compact states of the nature of the default, the
977 proposed means of remedying the default and/or any other action to
978 be taken by the commission; and

979 b. Provide remedial training and specific980 technical assistance regarding the default.

2. If a state in default fails to remedy the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Compact states, and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this Compact shall be terminated on the effective date of termination. A remedy of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

3. Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be submitted by the commission to the Governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of the Compact states.

994 4. A Compact state which has been terminated is
995 responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities
996 incurred through the effective date of termination, including
997 obligations which extend beyond the effective date of termination.

5. The commission shall not bear any costs incurred by
the state which is found to be in default or which has been
terminated from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between
the commission and the defaulting state.

1002 6. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the 1003 commission by petitioning the United States District Court for the 1004 State of Georgia or the federal district where the Compact has its

1005 principal offices. The prevailing member shall be awarded all 1006 costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees. 1007 C. Dispute resolution.

1008 1. Upon request by a Compact state, the commission 1009 shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact which 1010 arise among Compact states and between Compact and non-Compact 1011 states.

1012 2. The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for 1013 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes that 1014 arise before the commission.

1015 D. Enforcement.

The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its
 discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this
 Compact.

By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal 1019 2. 1020 action in the United States District Court for the State of 1021 Georgia or the federal district where the Compact has its 1022 principal offices against a Compact state in default to enforce 1023 compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its promulgated 1024 rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive 1025 relief and damages. If judicial enforcement is necessary, the 1026 prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, 1027 including reasonable attorney's fees.

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 42

1028 3. The remedies in this article shall not be the 1029 exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue 1030 any other remedies available under federal or state law.

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ARTICLE XIII.

1032 DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSYCHOLOGY 1033 INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT COMMISSION AND

1034 ASSOCIATED RULES, WITHDRAWAL, AND AMENDMENTS.

1035 The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which Α. 1036 the Compact is enacted into law in the seventh Compact state. The 1037 provisions which become effective at that time shall be limited to 1038 the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and 1039 1040 exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the Compact. 1041

B. Any state which joins the Compact after the commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes law in that state. Any rule which has been previously adopted by the commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

1048 C. Any Compact state may withdraw from this Compact by 1049 enacting a statute repealing the same.

A Compact state's withdrawal shall not take effect
 until six (6) months after enactment of the repealing statute.

1052 2. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing 1053 requirement of the withdrawing state's psychology regulatory 1054 authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action 1055 reporting requirements of this act before the effective date of 1056 withdrawal.

D. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any psychology licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a Compact state and a non-Compact state which does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

E. This Compact may be amended by the Compact states. No amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding upon any Compact state until it is enacted into the law of all Compact states.

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ARTICLE XIV.

CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.

1067 This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate 1068 the purposes thereof. If this Compact shall be held contrary to 1069 the constitution of any state member thereto, the Compact shall 1070 remain in full force and effect as to the remaining Compact 1071 states.

1072 SECTION 2. Section 73-31-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1073 amended as follows:

1074 73-31-7. (1) The board shall annually elect officers from 1075 its membership. The board shall meet at any other times as it 1076 deems necessary or advisable, or as deemed necessary and advisable

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 44	

1077 by the chairman or a majority of its members or the Governor. 1078 Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given in the manner 1079 prescribed by the board. A majority of the board shall constitute 1080 a quorum at any meeting or hearing. Any meeting at which the 1081 chairman is not present shall be chaired by his designee.

1082 (2) The board is authorized and empowered to:

1083 (a) Adopt and, from time to time, revise any rules and
1084 regulations not inconsistent with, and as may be necessary to
1085 carry into effect the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Within the funds available, employ and/or contract with a stenographer and other personnel, and contract for services, as are necessary for the proper performance of its work under this chapter.

1090 (c) Adopt a seal, and the executive secretary or board 1091 administrator shall have the care and custody thereof.

1092 (d) Examine, license, and renew the license of duly1093 qualified applicants.

1094 (e) Conduct hearings upon complaints concerning the1095 disciplining or licensing of applicants and psychologists.

1096 (f) Deny, approve, withhold, revoke, suspend and/or 1097 otherwise discipline applicants and licensed psychologists.

(g) Issue an educational letter to a licensee in order to assist that individual in his or her practice as a psychologist. Such a letter will not be considered to be disciplinary action.

(h) Cause the prosecution and enjoinder of all personsviolating this chapter, and incur necessary expenses therefor.

(i) Charge a fee of not more than Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) to a qualified psychologist as determined by the board who is applying for certification by the board to conduct examinations in civil commitment proceedings.

(j) Purchase general liability insurance coverage, including errors and omissions insurance, to cover the official actions of the board members and contract personnel and suits against them in their individual capacity. That coverage shall be in an amount determined by the board to be adequate, and the costs of the insurance shall be paid out of any funds available to the board.

(k) As additional responsibilities, effective July 1, 2018, the board shall administer and support the function of the Mississippi Autism Board under Sections 73-75-1 through 73-75-25, relating to the licensure of licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts.

(1) Grant to persons who are licensed in another state or jurisdiction the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology or the temporary authorization to practice, and regulate the practice of those persons in Mississippi, in accordance with the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact provided for in Section 1 of this act and this chapter.

1126 (3) Within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal 1127 year ending June 30, the board shall submit an official report, reviewed and signed by all board members, to the Governor 1128 1129 concerning the work of the board during the preceding fiscal year. 1130 The report shall include the names of all psychologists to whom 1131 licenses have been granted; any cases heard and decisions rendered 1132 in relation to the work of the board; the names, remuneration and 1133 duties of any employees of the board; and an account of all monies 1134 received and expended by the board.

SECTION 3. Section 73-31-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

1137 73-31-9. (1) All fees from applicants seeking licensing 1138 under this chapter and all license renewal fees received under 1139 this chapter shall be nonrefundable. The board may charge a late 1140 fee for nonrenewal by June 30 of each year.

(2) The board shall charge an application fee to be determined by the board, but not to exceed Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00), to applicants for licensing, and shall charge the applicant for the expenses incurred by the board for examination of the applicant. The board may increase the application fee as necessary, but may not increase the fee by more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) above the amount of the previous year's fee.

(3) Except as provided in Section 33-1-39, every licensed psychologist in this state shall annually pay to the board a fee determined by the board, but not to exceed Seven Hundred Dollars

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 47	

1151 (\$700.00); and the credentialing coordinator shall thereupon issue 1152 a renewal of the license for a term of one (1) year. The board may increase the license renewal fee as necessary, but may not 1153 1154 increase the fee by more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) above the 1155 amount of the previous year's fee. The license of any 1156 psychologist who fails to renew during the month of June in each and every year shall lapse; the failure to renew the license, 1157 1158 however, shall not deprive the psychologist of the right of 1159 renewal thereafter. The lapsed license may be renewed within a 1160 period of two (2) years after the lapse upon payment of all fees 1161 in arrears. A psychologist wishing to renew a license that has 1162 been lapsed for more than two (2) years shall be required to 1163 reapply for licensure.

(4) Every odd-numbered year, no psychologist license shall be renewed unless the psychologist shows evidence of a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education activities approved by the board.

1168 All fees and any other monies received by the board (5)1169 shall be deposited in a special fund that is created in the State 1170 Treasury and shall be used for the implementation and 1171 administration of this chapter when appropriated by the 1172 Legislature for that purpose. The monies in the special fund 1173 shall be subject to all provisions of the state budget laws that are applicable to special fund agencies, and disbursements from 1174 the special fund shall be made by the State Treasurer only upon 1175

1176 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer upon requisitions signed by the chairman or executive secretary of the board. Any 1177 interest earned on this special fund shall be credited by the 1178 1179 State Treasurer to the fund and shall not be paid into the State 1180 General Fund. Any unexpended monies remaining in the special fund 1181 at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General 1182 The State Auditor shall audit the financial affairs of the Fund. 1183 board and the transactions involving the special fund at least 1184 once a year in the same manner as for other special fund agencies. SECTION 4. Section 73-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1185

1186 amended as follows:

1187 73-31-13. The board shall issue a license as a psychologist 1188 to each applicant who files an application upon a form and in the 1189 manner as the board prescribes, accompanied by the fee as is 1190 required by this chapter; and who furnishes evidence satisfactory 1191 to the board that he or she:

Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and 1192 (a) 1193 Is of good moral character. The applicant must (b) 1194 have successfully been cleared for licensure through an 1195 investigation that consists of a determination as to good moral 1196 character and verification that the prospective licensee is not 1197 quilty of or in violation of any statutory ground for denial of 1198 licensure. For the purposes of this chapter, good moral character includes an absence of felony convictions or misdemeanor 1199 1200 convictions involving moral turpitude as established by a criminal

1201 background check. Applicants shall undergo a fingerprint-based 1202 criminal history records check of the Mississippi central criminal 1203 database and the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history 1204 database. Each applicant shall submit a full set of the 1205 applicant's fingerprints in a form and manner prescribed by the 1206 board, which shall be forwarded to the Mississippi Department of 1207 Public Safety (department) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation 1208 Identification Division for this purpose; and

1209 (c) Is not in violation of any of the provisions of 1210 this chapter and the rules and regulations adopted under this 1211 chapter, and is not currently under investigation by another 1212 licensure board; and

1213 Holds a doctoral degree in psychology from an (d) institution of higher education that is: regionally accredited by 1214 1215 an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of 1216 Education, or authorized by Provincial statute or Royal Charter to 1217 grant doctoral degrees. From a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, or the Canadian Psychological 1218 1219 Association, and from a program that requires at least one (1) 1220 year of continuous, full-time residence at the educational 1221 institution granting the doctoral degree. For graduates from 1222 newly established programs seeking accreditation or in areas where no accreditation exists, applicants for licensure shall have 1223 1224 completed a doctoral program in psychology that meets recognized 1225 acceptable professional standards as determined by the board. For

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 50

~ OFFICIAL ~

applicants graduating from doctoral level psychology training programs outside of the United States of America or Canada, applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that meets recognized acceptable professional standards as determined by the board; and

(e) Has completed a supervised internship from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association or the Canadian Psychological Association that meet the standards of training as defined by the board. The internship shall be comprised of at least one thousand eight hundred (1,800) hours of actual work, to include direct service, training and supervisory time; and

(f) Demonstrates professional knowledge by passing written (as used in this paragraph, the term "written" means either paper and pencil or computer-administered or computerized testing) and oral examinations in psychology prescribed by the board; except that upon examination of credentials, the board may, by unanimous consent, consider these credentials adequate evidence of professional knowledge.

Upon investigation of the application and other evidence submitted, the board shall, not less than thirty (30) days before the examination, notify each applicant that the application and evidence submitted is satisfactory and accepted or unsatisfactory and rejected; if rejected, the notice shall state the reasons for the rejection.

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 51

1251 The place of examination shall be designated in advance by 1252 the board, and the examination shall be given at such time and 1253 place and under such supervision as the board may determine. The 1254 examination used by the board shall consist of written tests and 1255 oral tests, and shall fairly test the applicant's knowledge and 1256 application thereof in those areas deemed relevant by the 1257 board. All examinations serve the purpose of verifying that a 1258 candidate for licensure has acquired a basic core of knowledge in 1259 the discipline of psychology and can apply that knowledge to the 1260 problems confronted in the practice of psychology within the 1261 applicant's area of practice.

1262 The board shall evaluate the results from both the written 1263 and oral examinations. The passing scores for the written and 1264 oral examinations shall be established by the board in its rules 1265 and regulations. If an applicant fails to receive a passing score 1266 on the entire examination, he or she may reapply and shall be 1267 allowed to take a later examination. An applicant who has failed 1268 two (2) successive examinations by the board may not reapply until 1269 after two (2) years from the date of the last examination failed. 1270 The board shall keep the written examination scores, and an 1271 accurate transcript of the questions and answers relating to the 1272 oral examinations, and the grade assigned to each answer thereof, 1273 as part of its records for at least two (2) years after the date 1274 of examination.

1275 Persons licensed in another state or jurisdiction applying

1276 for the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology

1277 must meet the requirements set out in the Psychology

1278 Interjurisdictional Compact provided for in Section 1 of this act.

Each application or filing made under this section shall include the social security number(s) of the applicant in accordance with Section 93-11-64.

1282 SECTION 5. Section 73-31-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1283 amended as follows:

1284 73-31-14. (1) Psychologists who are duly licensed in other 1285 jurisdictions and not currently under investigation by another 1286 licensure board may, upon application for licensure, apply for a 1287 temporary license, which shall be valid until the next 1288 administration of the oral examination. The temporary license 1289 shall be issued upon the applicant's passage of the Examination 1290 for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) at the level 1291 established by the board in its rules and regulations and 1292 equivalent to that required for permanent licensure. Each 1293 applicant for a temporary license shall file an application upon a 1294 form and in the manner as the board prescribes, accompanied by a 1295 fee equal to the amount required for permanent licensure. Α 1296 temporary license will lapse for any person who has failed the 1297 oral examination or has had his or her license suspended or 1298 revoked by the board. Procedures for the issuance of temporary 1299 licenses shall be established by the board in its rules and

~ OFFICIAL ~

1300 regulations. The issuance of a temporary license to a 1301 military-trained applicant, military spouse or person who 1302 establishes residence in this state shall be subject to the 1303 provisions of Section 73-50-1 or 73-50-2, as applicable.

1304 Psychologists who are duly licensed in other (2) 1305 jurisdictions may apply for a temporary practice certificate that 1306 allows them to practice psychology on a temporary basis in the 1307 State of Mississippi. That practice must be limited in scope and 1308 duration, not exceeding thirty (30) days during a consecutive 1309 twelve-month period. Applicants for a temporary practice 1310 certificate shall provide to the board the nature of the practice before providing that service, and shall make available to the 1311 1312 board a current copy of his or her license or verification of a valid license in good standing. Psychologists who receive 1313 1314 temporary practice certificates are subject to a jurisprudence 1315 examination at the request of the board. This authority for a 1316 temporary practice certificate does not apply to a psychologist 1317 who has been denied licensure in Mississippi, is a legal resident 1318 of Mississippi, or intends to practice full-time or a major 1319 portion of their time in Mississippi. Each applicant for a 1320 temporary practice certificate shall file an application upon a 1321 form and in the manner as the board prescribes, accompanied by a 1322 fee in an amount determined by the board, but not to exceed Three 1323 Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

(3) Applicants awaiting licensure in Mississippi are
prohibited from the practice of psychology without a temporary
license issued by the board. For the purposes of this subsection,
the practice of psychology shall be construed without regard to
the means of service provision (e.g., face-to-face, telephone,
internet, telehealth).

1330 (4) Persons licensed in another state or jurisdiction
 1331 applying for the temporary authorization to practice must meet the
 1332 requirements set out in the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
 1333 provided for in Section 1 of this act.

1334 SECTION 6. Section 73-31-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1335 amended as follows:

1336 73-31-15. (1) Upon application accompanied by the proper 1337 fee, the board may issue a license to any psychologist who 1338 furnishes, upon a form and in the manner as the board prescribes, 1339 evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she is a diplomate 1340 in good standing of the American Board of Examiners in 1341 Professional Psychology; or possesses a valid Certificate of 1342 Professional Qualification (CPQ) granted by the Association of 1343 State and Provincial Psychology Boards; or has at least twenty 1344 (20) years of licensure to practice in another state, territorial possession of the United States, District of Columbia, or 1345 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or Canadian Province when that license 1346 was based on a doctoral degree; and 1347

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 55

1348 (a) Has had no disciplinary sanction during the entire1349 period of licensure; and

1350 (b) Is not currently under investigation by another1351 licensure board; and

1352 (c) Has demonstrated current qualification by
1353 successfully passing the oral examination and jurisprudence
1354 examination.

1355 (2) The issuance of a license by reciprocity to a 1356 military-trained applicant, military spouse or person who 1357 establishes residence in this state shall be subject to the 1358 provisions of Section 73-50-1 or 73-50-2, as applicable.

1359 (3) The board may grant the authority to practice
1360 interjurisdictional telepsychology to persons who are licensed in
1361 another state or jurisdiction who meet the requirements set out in
1362 the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact provided for in Section
1363 <u>1 of this act.</u>

1364 SECTION 7. Section 73-31-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1365 amended as follows:

1366 73-31-21. (1) The board, by an affirmative vote of at least 1367 four (4) of its seven (7) members, shall withhold, deny, revoke or 1368 suspend any license issued or applied for in accordance with the 1369 provisions of this chapter, or otherwise discipline a licensed 1370 psychologist, upon proof that the applicant or licensed 1371 psychologist:

~ OFFICIAL ~

1372 (a) Has violated the current code of ethics of the
1373 American Psychological Association or other codes of ethical
1374 standards adopted by the board; or

1375 (b) Has been convicted of a felony or any offense
1376 involving moral turpitude, the record of conviction being
1377 conclusive evidence thereof; or

(c) Is using any substance or any alcoholic beverage to an extent or in a manner dangerous to any other person or the public, or to an extent that the use impairs his or her ability to perform the work of a professional psychologist with safety to the public; or

(d) Has impersonated another person holding a psychologist license or allowed another person to use his or her license; or

(e) Has used fraud or deception in applying for a
license or in taking an examination provided for in this chapter;
or

(f) Has accepted commissions or rebates or other forms of remuneration for referring clients to other professional persons; or

1392(g) Has performed psychological services outside of the1393area of his or her training, experience or competence; or

(h) Has allowed his or her name or license issued underthis chapter to be used in connection with any person or persons

1396 who perform psychological services outside of the area of their 1397 training, experience or competence; or

1398 (i) Is legally adjudicated mentally incompetent, the1399 record of that adjudication being conclusive evidence thereof; or

(j) Has willfully or negligently violated any of the
provisions of this chapter. The board may recover from any person
disciplined under this chapter, the costs of investigation,
prosecution, and adjudication of the disciplinary action.

1404 Notice shall be effected by registered mail or personal (2)1405 service setting forth the particular reasons for the proposed 1406 action and fixing a date not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the date of the mailing or that service, 1407 1408 at which time the applicant or licensee shall be given an 1409 opportunity for a prompt and fair hearing. For the purpose of the 1410 hearing, the board, acting by and through its executive secretary, 1411 may subpoena persons and papers on its own behalf and on behalf of 1412 the applicant or licensee, may administer oaths and may take testimony. That testimony, when properly transcribed, together 1413 1414 with the papers and exhibits, shall be admissible in evidence for 1415 or against the applicant or licensee. At the hearing, the 1416 applicant or licensee may appear by counsel and personally in his 1417 or her own behalf. Any person sworn and examined by a witness in 1418 the hearing shall not be held to answer criminally, nor shall any 1419 papers or documents produced by the witness be competent evidence in any criminal proceedings against the witness other than for 1420

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 58

~ OFFICIAL ~

1421 perjury in delivering his or her evidence. On the basis of any 1422 such hearing, or upon default of applicant or licensee, the board shall make a determination specifying its findings of fact and 1423 conclusions of law. A copy of that determination shall be sent by 1424 1425 registered mail or served personally upon the applicant or 1426 licensee. The decision of the board denying, revoking or 1427 suspending the license shall become final thirty (30) days after 1428 so mailed or served, unless within that period the applicant or 1429 licensee appeals the decision to the chancery court, under the 1430 provisions hereof, and the proceedings in chancery shall be 1431 conducted as other matters coming before the court. All proceedings and evidence, together with exhibits, presented at the 1432 1433 hearing before the board shall be admissible in evidence in court 1434 in the appeal.

1435 (3)The board may subpoena persons and papers on its own 1436 behalf and on behalf of the respondent, may administer oaths and 1437 may compel the testimony of witnesses. It may issue commissions to take testimony, and testimony so taken and sworn to shall be 1438 1439 admissible in evidence for and against the respondent. The board 1440 shall be entitled to the assistance of the chancery court or the 1441 chancellor in vacation, which, on petition by the board, shall 1442 issue ancillary subpoenas and petitions and may punish as for contempt of court in the event of noncompliance therewith. 1443

1444 (4) Every order and judgment of the board shall take effect 1445 immediately on its promulgation unless the board in the order or

1446 judgment fixes a probationary period for the applicant or 1447 The order and judgment shall continue in effect unless licensee. upon appeal the court by proper order or decree terminates it 1448 The board may make public its order and judgments in 1449 earlier. 1450 any manner and form as it deems proper. It shall, in event of the 1451 suspension or revocation of a license, direct the clerk of the 1452 circuit court of the county in which that license was recorded to 1453 cancel that record.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting or revoking the authority of any court or of any licensing or registering officer or board, other than the Mississippi Board of Psychology, to suspend, revoke and reinstate licenses and to cancel registrations under the provisions of Section 41-29-311.

(6) Suspension by the board of the license of a psychologist shall be for a period not exceeding one (1) year. At the end of this period the board shall reevaluate the suspension, and shall either reinstate or revoke the license. A person whose license has been revoked under the provisions of this section may reapply for a license after more than two (2) years have elapsed from the date that the denial or revocation is legally effective.

1466 (7) In addition to the reasons specified in subsection (1) 1467 of this section, the board shall be authorized to suspend the 1468 license of any licensee for being out of compliance with an order 1469 for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for 1470 suspension of a license for being out of compliance with an order

1471 for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement 1472 of a license suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended 1473 for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157. Actions 1474 1475 taken by the board in suspending a license when required by 1476 Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 are not actions from which an 1477 appeal may be taken under this section. Any appeal of a license 1478 suspension that is required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 1479 shall be taken in accordance with the appeal procedure specified in Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than 1480 the procedure specified in this section. If there is any conflict 1481 1482 between any provision of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any 1483 provision of this chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 1484 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

1485 (8) The board may issue a nondisciplinary, educational 1486 letter to licensees as provided in Section 73-31-7(2)(g). The 1487 board may also direct a psychologist to obtain a formal assessment 1488 of ability to practice safely if there is reason to believe there 1489 may be impairment due to substance abuse or mental incapacity. 1490 Licensees who may be impaired, but who are able to practice 1491 safely, may be required by the board to seek appropriate treatment 1492 and/or supervision. That action by the board in itself will not 1493 be considered disciplinary.

1494 (9) The board may discipline any person who has been granted 1495 the authority to practice interjurisdictional telepsychology or

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 61	

1496 the temporary authorization to practice under the Psychology

1497 Interjurisdictional Compact provided for under Section 1 of this

1498 act, for any of the grounds specified in subsection (1) of this

1499 section in the same manner as the board disciplines a licensed 1500 psychologist under this section.

1501 SECTION 8. Section 73-31-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1502 amended as follows:

1503 73-31-23. (1) It shall be a misdemeanor:

(a) For any person not licensed under this chapter to
represent himself or herself as a psychologist or practice
psychology in the manner described in Section 73-31-3, except as
<u>otherwise authorized under the Psychology Interjurisdictional</u>

1508 Compact provided for under Section 1 of this act; or

(b) For any person to represent himself or herself as a
psychologist or practice psychology in the manner described in
Section 73-31-3 during the time that his or her license as a
psychologist is suspended or revoked or lapsed; or

1513 (c) For any person to otherwise violate the provisions1514 of this chapter.

1515 That misdemeanor shall be punishable, upon conviction, by 1516 imprisonment for not more than sixty (60) days or by a fine of not 1517 more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), or by both that fine 1518 and imprisonment. Each violation shall be deemed a separate 1519 offense. The misdemeanor shall be prosecuted by the district

S. B. No. 2157 24/SS26/R575PS PAGE 62 ~ OFFICIAL ~

1520 attorney of the judicial district in which the offense was
1521 committed in the name of the people of the State of Mississippi.

1522 Any entity, organization or person, including the board, (2)1523 any member of the board, and its agents or employees, acting in 1524 good faith and without malice, who makes any report or information 1525 available to the board regarding violation of any of the 1526 provisions of this chapter, or who assists in the organization, 1527 investigation or preparation of any such report or information or 1528 assists the board in carrying out any of its duties or functions 1529 provided by law, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability 1530 for those acts.

The immunity granted under the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to and shall not be available to any psychologist who is the subject of any report or information relating to a violation by the psychologist of the provisions of this chapter.

1536 **SECTION 9.** Section 73-31-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1537 brought forward as follows:

1538 73-31-25. The board may, in the name of the people of the 1539 State of Mississippi, through the Attorney General, except as 1540 otherwise authorized in Section 7-5-39, apply for an injunction in 1541 any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any person from 1542 committing any act declared to be a misdemeanor by this chapter. 1543 If it is established that the defendant has been or is 1544 committing an act declared to be a misdemeanor by this chapter,

S. B. No. 2157	~ OFFICIAL ~
24/SS26/R575PS	
PAGE 63	

1545 the court, or any judge thereof, shall enter a decree perpetually 1546 enjoining the defendant from further committing that act. In case 1547 of violation of any injunction issued under the provisions of this 1548 section, the court, or any judge thereof, may summarily try and 1549 punish the offender for contempt of court. Those injunctive 1550 proceedings shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, all 1551 penalties and other remedies provided for in this chapter.

1552 **SECTION 10.** Section 73-31-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 1553 brought forward as follows:

1554 73-31-27. (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to 1555 limit:

(a) The activities and services of a student, intern or trainee in psychology pursuing a course of study in psychology at an institution of higher education, if these activities and services constitute a part of his or her supervised course of study; or

1561 The services and activities of members of other (b) 1562 professional groups licensed or certified by the State of 1563 Mississippi who perform work of a psychological nature consistent 1564 with their training, work experience history, and with any code of 1565 ethics of their respective professions, provided they do not hold 1566 themselves out to be psychologists. Portions of the practice of 1567 psychology as defined by this chapter overlap with the activities 1568 of other professional groups and it is not the intent of this 1569 chapter to regulate the activities of those professional groups.

(2) Individuals certified by the Mississippi State Department of Education may use appropriate titles such as "school psychologist," "certified school psychologist," "educational psychologist" or "psychometrist" only when they are employed by or under contract with a school district and practicing in school or educational settings.

1576 (3) A lecturer employed by an institution of higher learning
1577 may use an appropriate academic or research title, provided he or
1578 she does not represent himself or herself as a psychologist or
1579 practice psychology in the manner described in Section 73-31-3.
1580 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from
1581 and after its passage.