



## AB 282 – Board of Psychology Licensing Improvement

### SUMMARY

AB 282 will streamline the licensure process for psychologists by allowing applicants for psychology licensure to take required examinations at any time after completing qualifying coursework. Currently, applicants have to complete the licensure process in a set sequence, with each step to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Psychology (BOP). By streamlining this process, this bill maintains stringent requirements but helps reduce burdensome wait times.

### BACKGROUND

In 2022 a California Psychological Association member survey conducted found the applicants for psychology licensure experience significant wait times at each step in the licensing process at the BOP. Each sequential step in the licensure process typically took 2-4 months to process, for a total wait time often lasting about one year. This wait time often delays when applicants can start credentialed positions and increase their salaries. As a result, almost 60% of CPA members who responded reported that the delays created financial hardship and over 30% reported the delays caused interruptions in patient care.

### PROBLEM

Current law requires each applicant for licensure as a psychologist to undergo a lengthy process of several consecutive steps resulting in extensive waiting periods for some applications. This causes delays and interruptions to bringing new psychologists into the workforce, which impacts consumers' access to mental health treatment and is a financial burden for applicants.

Further, the national licensure examination developed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) is in the process of being converted into two parts. Part one will focus on clinical knowledge and will be taken after coursework has been completed. The second part will be experienced based and taken after completion of the clinical experience required for licensure. This updated exam format is not taken into account in existing law.

### THIS BILL

To reduce delays, AB 232 will allow applicants for psychology licensure to take the required examinations at any time after completing the coursework for their doctoral degree, rather than in a set sequence with each step to be reviewed and approved by BOP staff.

Applicants would need to provide a written certification from the register of the applicant's educational institution or program to document that they have met the coursework requirements of the program.

This bill will reduce processing delays by minimizing the required steps of the BOP review process to determine if an applicant qualifies for their exam. This bill is also consistent with the changes that are being made to the national examination developed by ASPPB.

### SUPPORT

California Psychological Association (Sponsor)  
The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (Co-Sponsor)  
Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities  
California Access Coalition  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California  
California Board of Psychology  
Govern for California  
Portia Bell Hume Behavioral Health and Training Center  
Steinberg Institute  
Sycamores  
Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corporation

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