

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 89 (Delegate Kipke)  
Health and Government Operations

Finance

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**Mental Hygiene - Admission Provisions - Definition of "Psychologist"**

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This bill alters the definition of “psychologist” for purposes of certain provisions of law relating to admissions to mental health facilities. Specifically, the bill defines “psychologist” as an individual who is licensed under Title 18 of the Health Occupations Article to practice psychology. The bill removes from the definition the requirement that the individual also be listed in the National Register of Health Services Providers in psychology.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The change is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An application for involuntary admission to a facility or Veterans’ Administration hospital must be accompanied by the certificates of either (1) two physicians; or (2) one physician and one psychologist. A “psychologist” is an individual who is licensed under Title 18 of the Health Occupations Article and listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in psychology. A psychologist may petition for the emergency evaluation of an individual if the psychologist has reason to believe that the individual has a mental disorder and presents a danger to the life or safety of the individual or others.

To qualify for a license to practice psychology, an applicant must be of good moral character; be at least 18 years old; have a doctoral degree in psychology; pass a board exam; and have at least two years of board approved professional supervised experience in psychology.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2011  
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