

HOUSE BILL 2573

By Hicks G

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33;  
Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to healthcare  
providers.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee recognizes the critical need for more qualified  
mental health professionals; and

WHEREAS, doctoral-level psychology trainees play a vital role in meeting this need,  
especially in complex mental health cases and for improved overall health outcomes in medical  
environments, though reimbursement is currently only permitted in licensed community mental  
health centers; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-11-224, is amended by deleting  
the section and substituting:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Federally qualified health center" or "FQHC" means a community-  
based healthcare provider that receives funds from the health resources and  
services administration (HRSA) health center program to provide primary care  
services in underserved areas and that provides care on a sliding fee scale;

(2) "Postdoctoral fellow" means an individual who has a doctoral degree  
in psychology and is engaged in a period of additional training in order to obtain  
licensure that is conducted under the supervision of a licensed psychologist;

(3) "Psychology intern" means a graduate student in an accredited  
doctoral program in psychology who is engaged in a pre-doctoral internship, as a

requirement of such accredited doctoral program, that provides practical experience in applying psychological principles under supervision; and

(4) "Rural health clinic" means a clinic that provides primary care services and is located in a rural, underserved area.

(b) The following entities are eligible to receive third-party reimbursement from TennCare, a managed care plan, or third-party payor for usual and customary professional services rendered by an employed psychologist with a provisional or temporary license, postdoctoral fellow, or psychology intern:

(1) Community mental health centers, as defined in § 33-1-101;

(2) Institutes or governmental agencies;

(3) Doctoral clinical psychology students, psychology interns, provisionally licensed psychologists, or postdoctoral fellows in university-operated training clinics;

(4) Qualifying psychologists employing psychologists with temporary or provisional licenses; and

(5) Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and other facilities licensed or regulated by the health facilities commission providing appropriate supervision by a licensed clinical psychologist according to the guidelines established by the American Psychological Association (APA) to ensure the quality of care and training, adherence to ethical standards, and the professional development of a psychology intern, provisionally licensed psychologist, or postdoctoral fellow.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.