



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**Christina Henderson**  
Councilmember, At-Large  
Chairperson, Committee on Health

**Committee Member**  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Judiciary and Public Safety  
Transportation and the Environment

**Statement of Introduction**  
**Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023**  
**November 6, 2023**

Today, along with my colleagues, Councilmembers Matthew Frumin, Zachary Parker, Robert White, Jr., and Trayon White, Sr., I am introducing the Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023. This legislation would improve behavioral healthcare in the District by establishing the profession of Behavior Analysts (BAs) as a licensed healthcare profession.

Behavioral Analysts (BAs) play a vital role in providing behavioral healthcare to residents. BAs specialize in assessing and addressing complex behavior issues, especially for children with autism spectrum disorder. BAs create and implement intervention plans for behavioral-related issues, and may provide therapy services in health care clinics, schools, homes, and businesses. Some BAs also specialize in trauma-based behavioral analysis, such as with clients with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In neighboring states like Maryland<sup>1</sup> and Virginia,<sup>2</sup> BAs are licensed, and the profession is overseen by licensing boards, providing a framework for ethical practice and quality assurance. Similarly, this bill aims to establish the licensure of BAs in the District and would place the profession under the oversight of the DC Health Board of Professional Counseling. This regulatory structure will not only enhance the professionalism of the field but also expand the scope of practice for BAs, enabling them to address a broader range of behavioral and mental health challenges. Additionally, it will facilitate insurance reimbursement for behavior analytic services, increasing access to care, particularly for children with Medicaid who are facing autism-related challenges.

This legislation recognizes the valuable contributions of BAs in the District's behavioral healthcare system and aims to uplift and standardize the professional requirements and ethics of the field. I appreciate the support and input of the DC Association for Behavior Analysis, who recognize the need for standardized requirements and ethical practices for their profession and worked closely with my office on this legislation.

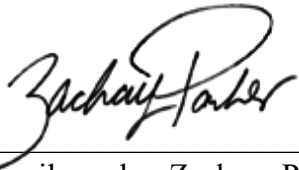
I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation, promoting the well-being of residents and enhancing the quality of behavioral healthcare in the District of Columbia.

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<sup>1</sup> [Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists | Behavior Analyst License](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Board of Medicine | Behavior Analyst and Assistant Behavior Analyst](#)

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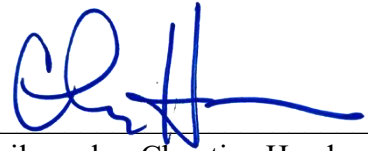
Councilmember Zachary Parker



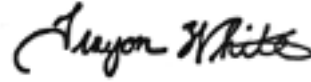
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Matthew Frumin



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985 to require the Board of Professional Counseling to regulate the practice and licensure of behavioral analysts in the District and to require the licensure of behavioral analysts in the District.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) The Table of Contents is amended by adding a new title VII-G to read as follows:

“TITLE VII-G

“CATEGORIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF BEHAVIORAL ANALYSTS

“Sec. 771. Eligibility requirements and education.

“Sec. 772. Expiration and renewal.”.

35 (b) Section 101 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01) is amended as follows:

36 (1) The existing paragraph (9A) is redesignated as paragraph (9B).

37 (2) A new paragraph (9A) is added to read as follows:

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39 “(9A) “Licensed behavioral analyst” means an individual who is licensed by the  
40 Board of Professional Counseling to practice behavioral analysis.”.

41 (c) Section 102 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.02) is amended as follows:

42 (1) The existing paragraph (2C-i) is redesignated as paragraph (2C-ii).

43 (2) A new paragraph (2C-i) is added to read as follows:

44 “(2C-i) “Practice of behavioral analysis” means the design, implementation,  
45 and evaluation of systemic instructional and environmental modifications to produce socially  
46 significant improvements to human behavior.”.

47 (d) Section 213 (D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.13) is amended as follows:

48 (1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the number “5” and inserting the number “6”  
49 in its place.

50 (2) Subsection (b) is amended by striking the phrase “, and addiction counseling.” And  
51 inserting the phrase “, addiction counseling, and behavioral analysis.” in its place.

52 (3) Subsection (d) is amended by striking the phrase “one shall be a consumer  
53 member,” and inserting the phrase “one shall be a consumer member, one shall be a licensed  
54 behavioral analyst,” in its place.

55 (4) A new subsection (e) is added to read as follows:

56 “(e)(1) The Board shall issue rules for the licensure and scope of practice of behavior analysis,  
57 which shall include at a minimum:



81           “(b) At least 2 months before the license expires, the Board shall send to the licensee, by  
82 first-class mail or electronic mail to the last known address of the licensee, a renewal notice that  
83 states:

84                   “(1) The date on which the current license expires;

85                   “(2) The date by which the renewal application must be received by the Board for  
86 renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires; and

87           “(c) The Board shall renew the license of each licensee who meets the requirements of this  
88 section.

89           Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

90           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact  
91 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
92 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

93           Sec. 4. Effective date.

94           This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor,  
95 action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in  
96 section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87  
97 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia  
98 Register.