

HOUSE BILL 965

By Ramsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,
Chapter 11, relative to telepsychology.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 11, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 of this act as new part 3.

SECTION 2. Any person who engages in the practice of telepsychology shall have a valid license to practice as a psychological examiner, a psychologist, a senior psychological examiner, or a psychologist shall have a certificate to practice as a psychological assistant under the provisions of this chapter. Telepsychology shall include licensees who practice by distance communication technology, including but not limited to, telephone, electronic mail, internet-based communication, and videoconferencing. The board may take disciplinary or other action against such licensees. Any action taken by the board shall not preclude any other jurisdiction from also taking disciplinary or other action against a licensee.

SECTION 3. The board of examiners in psychology shall promulgate, pursuant to title 4, chapter 5, rules and regulations governing the use of telepsychology, whether performed for remuneration or not. The board shall protect recipients of telepsychology services by establishing requirements for the responsible use of telepsychology, including its use for clinical supervision of psychological practitioners requiring such supervision, and protecting the security of electronic records.

SECTION 4. The board of examiners in psychology shall issue certificates or other designations of specialization in telepsychology to psychological professionals licensed by the Tennessee board of examiners in psychology. A designation of specialization in telepsychology does not authorize a psychological professional licensed in Tennessee to practice

telepsychology in another state or jurisdiction without the express authorization of that state or jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. The board of examiners in psychology may issue restricted or specialized licenses to psychological professionals licensed in another state or jurisdiction for the limited purpose of providing telepsychology services in Tennessee. A telepsychology license shall be required for the provision of telepsychology services in Tennessee.

SECTION 6. The board of examiners in psychology shall determine whether the credentials of a psychological professional licensed in another state or jurisdiction for the independent practice of psychology are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the independent practice of psychology in Tennessee, and shall refuse telepsychology licensure to applicants failing to meet such requirements.

SECTION 7. The board of examiners in psychology shall set fees for psychological professionals licensed in another state or jurisdiction in order to be eligible to practice telepsychology in Tennessee. The fee for psychological professionals licensed in another state or jurisdiction shall not be more than the amount charged for a license to practice psychology in Tennessee.

SECTION 8. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, for all other purposes, it shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.