

1-1 By: Button, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2598  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2025;  
 1-3 May 12, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Education K-16; May 25, 2025, reported favorably by the following  
 1-5 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 25, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Creighton	X			
1-8 Campbell	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Hagenbuch			X	
1-11 Hinojosa of Nueces	X			
1-12 King	X			
1-13 Menéndez	X			
1-14 Middleton	X			
1-15 Parker	X			
1-16 Paxton	X			
1-17 West			X	

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a school psychologist licensed under the Occupations  
 1-22 Code.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 38.303(a), Education Code, is amended to  
 1-25 read as follows:

1-26 (a) The task force is composed of:

1-27 (1) the commissioner or the commissioner's designee;

1-28 (2) the following additional members appointed by the  
 1-29 commissioner:

1-30 (A) three parents of students who are enrolled in  
 1-31 school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and receive the  
 1-32 mental health services described by Section 38.302(1);

1-33 (B) one person who provides the mental health  
 1-34 services described by Section 38.302(1) or the training described  
 1-35 by Section 38.302(2) and who is:

1-36 (i) a licensed professional counselor, as  
 1-37 defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

1-38 (ii) a licensed clinical social worker, as  
 1-39 defined by Section 505.002, Occupations Code; or

1-40 (iii) a school counselor certified under  
 1-41 Subchapter B, Chapter 21;

1-42 (C) one person who is a psychiatrist;

1-43 (D) two persons who are administrators of  
 1-44 districts or schools that provide the mental health services  
 1-45 described by Section 38.302(1) or the training described by Section  
 1-46 38.302(2);

1-47 (E) one person who is a member of a foundation  
 1-48 that invests in the mental health services described by Section  
 1-49 38.302(1) or the training described by Section 38.302(2);

1-50 (F) one person who is an employee of an  
 1-51 institution of higher education designated under Section 38.307;  
 1-52 and

1-53 (G) one person who is a [~~licensed specialist in~~  
 1-54 school psychologist [psychology], as defined by Section 501.002,  
 1-55 Occupations Code; and

1-56 (3) for any other entity the task force considers  
 1-57 necessary, one person appointed by the task force for each such  
 1-58 entity.

1-59 SECTION 2. Section 61.601, Education Code, is amended to  
 1-60 read as follows:

1-61 Sec. 61.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "mental

2-1 health professional" means:

2-2 (1) a licensed physician who is:

2-3 (A) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric  
2-4 residency training program; or

2-5 (B) certified in psychiatry by:

2-6 (i) the American Board of Psychiatry and  
2-7 Neurology; or

2-8 (ii) the American Osteopathic Board of  
2-9 Neurology and Psychiatry;

2-10 (2) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002,  
2-11 Occupations Code;

2-12 (3) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by  
2-13 Section 503.002, Occupations Code;

2-14 (4) an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined  
2-15 by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a nationally  
2-16 recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental health  
2-17 nursing;

2-18 (5) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by  
2-19 Section 505.002, Occupations Code;

2-20 (6) a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school psychologist  
2-21 ~~[psychology]~~, as defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code;

2-22 (7) a chemical dependency counselor, as defined by  
2-23 Section 504.001, Occupations Code; and

2-24 (8) a licensed marriage and family therapist, as  
2-25 defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code.

2-26 SECTION 3. Section 61.607(b), Education Code, is amended to  
2-27 read as follows:

2-28 (b) The total amount of repayment assistance received by a  
2-29 mental health professional under this subchapter may not exceed:

2-30 (1) \$160,000, for assistance from the state received  
2-31 by a licensed physician;

2-32 (2) \$80,000, for assistance from the state received  
2-33 by:

2-34 (A) a psychologist;

2-35 (B) a licensed clinical social worker, if the  
2-36 social worker has received a doctoral degree related to social  
2-37 work;

2-38 (C) a licensed professional counselor, if the  
2-39 counselor has received a doctoral degree related to counseling; or

2-40 (D) a licensed marriage and family therapist, if  
2-41 the marriage and family therapist has received a doctoral degree  
2-42 related to marriage and family therapy;

2-43 (3) \$60,000, for assistance from the state received by  
2-44 an advanced practice registered nurse;

2-45 (4) \$40,000, for assistance from the state received  
2-46 by:

2-47 (A) a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed  
2-48 marriage and family therapist, or a licensed professional counselor  
2-49 who is not described by Subdivision (2); or

2-50 (B) a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school  
2-51 psychologist ~~[psychology]~~; and

2-52 (5) \$10,000, for assistance from the state received by  
2-53 a licensed chemical dependency counselor, if the chemical  
2-54 dependency counselor has received an associate degree related to  
2-55 chemical dependency counseling or behavioral science.

2-56 SECTION 4. Section 411.12502(a), Government Code, is  
2-57 amended to read as follows:

2-58 (a) The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council is  
2-59 entitled to obtain criminal history record information as provided  
2-60 by Subsection (b) that relates to a person who is an applicant for  
2-61 or licensed as:

2-62 (1) a licensed psychologist, licensed psychological  
2-63 associate, or ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school psychologist  
2-64 ~~[psychology]~~ under Chapter 501, Occupations Code;

2-65 (2) a licensed marriage and family therapist or  
2-66 licensed marriage and family therapist associate under Chapter 502,  
2-67 Occupations Code;

2-68 (3) a licensed professional counselor or licensed  
2-69 professional counselor associate under Chapter 503, Occupations

3-1 Code; or  
3-2 (4) a licensed baccalaureate social worker, licensed  
3-3 master social worker, or licensed clinical social worker under  
3-4 Chapter 505, Occupations Code.  
3-5 SECTION 5. Section 548.0203(a), Government Code, as  
3-6 effective April 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:  
3-7 (a) In this section, "health professional" means an  
3-8 individual who is:  
3-9 (1) licensed, registered, certified, or otherwise  
3-10 authorized by this state to practice as a social worker,  
3-11 occupational therapist, or speech-language pathologist;  
3-12 (2) a licensed professional counselor;  
3-13 (3) a licensed marriage and family therapist; or  
3-14 (4) a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school psychologist, as  
3-15 defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code ~~[psychology]~~.  
3-16 SECTION 6. Section 501.002(2), Occupations Code, is amended  
3-17 to read as follows:  
3-18 (2) "School psychologist" ~~["Licensed specialist in~~  
3-19 ~~school psychology"]~~ means a person who holds a license to engage in  
3-20 the practice of psychology under Section 501.260.  
3-21 SECTION 7. Section 501.051(a-1), Occupations Code, is  
3-22 amended to read as follows:  
3-23 (a-1) One of the members appointed under Subsection (a)(1)  
3-24 or (a)(2) must practice as a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school  
3-25 psychologist ~~[psychology]~~ under Section 501.260.  
3-26 SECTION 8. The heading to Section 501.260, Occupations  
3-27 Code, is amended to read as follows:  
3-28 Sec. 501.260. ~~[LICENSED SPECIALIST IN]~~ SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST  
3-29 ~~[PSYCHOLOGY]~~.  
3-30 SECTION 9. Sections 501.260(a) and (c), Occupations Code,  
3-31 are amended to read as follows:  
3-32 (a) The executive council by rule shall issue a license to a  
3-33 ~~[licensed specialist in]~~ school psychologist ~~[psychology]~~. A  
3-34 license issued under this section constitutes the appropriate  
3-35 credential for a person who provides psychological services as  
3-36 required by Section 21.003(b), Education Code.  
3-37 (c) The rules of practice for a ~~[licensed specialist in]~~  
3-38 school psychologist ~~[psychology]~~ must comply with nationally  
3-39 recognized standards for the practice of school psychology.  
3-40 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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