

ANALYSIS OF HOUSE BILL 1734

Subjecting licensed psychologists to chapter 18.130 RCW, the uniform disciplinary act.

SPONSORS: Representative Esser and Schual-Berke.

BACKGROUND: The practice of psychology is licensed by the Department of Health, and a psychologist must be licensed in order to refer to himself or herself as a psychologist. The Examining Board of Psychology qualifies applicants for licensure and serves as the disciplining authority on professional conduct under the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

The requirements of the psychologist law do not apply to persons working in the following exempt settings: a person teaching, conducting research, or consulting at a college or university; a person holding a school psychologist credential from the state Board of Education; a person employed by a local, state, or federal agency; a person working in business, not engaged in the practice of psychology; a bona fide psychology student; or a person qualified in sociology as a social psychologist.

It is unclear whether a licensed psychologist is subject to the Uniform Disciplinary Act when working in an exempt setting.

SUMMARY: A person who is licensed as a psychologist is subject to the Uniform Disciplinary Act at all times.

PREPARED BY: John Beresford Welsh, Senior Counsel
House Health Care Committee, P.O. Box **40600**
Olympia, WA. 98504-0600, (360) 786-7133