

SEC. 23. SEVERABILITY.—If any section of this Act, or any part thereof, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of any section or part thereof.

SEC. 24. This Act shall become effective ninety days after the date of its enactment.

[S. 1864, 90th Cong., 1st sess., by Mr. Morse, on May 24, 1967]

AN ACT To define and regulate the practice of psychology in the District of Columbia

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That this Act may be cited as the "Practice of Psychology Act".

SEC. 2. The practice of psychology in the District of Columbia is hereby declared to affect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest to protect the public from the unauthorized and unqualified practice of psychology, and from unprofessional conduct by persons licensed to practice psychology.

SEC. 3. As used in this Act:

(A) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the District of Columbia or his authorized agent or agents.

(B) "Person" includes an association, partnership, or corporation, as well as natural persons.

(C) "Accredited college or university" means any college or university which, in the Commissioner's determination, offers either an acceptable full-time resident graduate program of study in psychology leading to the doctoral degree or a comparable program. In making his determination concerning domestic educational institutions, the Commissioner shall accredit those institutions included in the listings of approved academic institutions published by the United States Office of Education; in determining what foreign educational institutions shall be accredited the Commissioner may take into account the published lists of accrediting agencies and of professional associations.

(D) "The practice of psychology" is the rendering of or offering to render to the public for a fee, monetary or otherwise, any service involving the application of established methods and principles of the science and profession of psychology, except as provided in sections 5 and 20 of this Act. These principles and methods are concerned with understanding, predicting, and changing behavior, and they include, but are not restricted to, the use of counseling and psychotherapy with groups or individuals having adjustment problems in the areas of work, family, school, and personal relationships; measuring, testing, and assessing aptitudes, skills, public opinion, attitudes, emotions, personality, and intelligence; teaching or lecturing in psychology and doing research on problems relating to human behavior.

(E) Nothing in subsection (D) shall be construed as permitting either the administration or prescription of drugs or any infringement upon the practice of medicine as defined by the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia, approved February 27, 1929 (45 Stat. 1326), as amended.

SEC. 4. The psychologist who engages in practice is expected to assist his client in obtaining professional help for all relevant aspects of the client's problem that fall outside of the boundaries of the psychologist's own competence; for example, provision should be made for the diagnosis and treatment of relevant medical problems by an appropriate, qualified medical practitioner.

SEC. 5. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to offer to practice psychology, or to represent himself to be a psychologist, unless he shall first obtain a license or certificate pursuant to this Act, except as hereinafter provided.

(A) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the activities of and use of the title "psychologist" by a person in the employ of any governmental agency, academic institution, charitable agency, research laboratory, or business corporation: *Provided*, That the services performed by such an employee are a part of his office or position and are provided only within the confines of the organization or are offered to like organizations. Persons providing services to the public through governmental organizations, such as clinics, who are compensated by their employer rather than their clients are also exempted under the Act. Persons coming under the exemptions established by this subsection may offer lecture services to the public for a fee but may not offer other psychological services to the public for a fee without having obtained a license.