



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 285**

February Session, 2022

House Bill No. 5480

*House of Representatives, April 4, 2022*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (12) of subsection (a) of section 19a-906 of the  
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (12) "Telehealth provider" means (A) any physician licensed under  
5 chapter 370, physical therapist licensed under chapter 376, chiropractor  
6 licensed under chapter 372, naturopath licensed under chapter 373,  
7 podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, occupational therapist licensed  
8 under chapter 376a, optometrist licensed under chapter 380, registered  
9 nurse or advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378,  
10 physician assistant licensed under chapter 370, psychologist licensed  
11 under chapter 383, marital and family therapist licensed under chapter  
12 383a, clinical social worker or master social worker licensed under  
13 chapter 383b, alcohol and drug counselor licensed under chapter 376b,  
14 professional counselor licensed under chapter 383c, dietitian-

15 nutritionist certified under chapter 384b, speech and language  
16 pathologist licensed under chapter 399, respiratory care practitioner  
17 licensed under chapter 381a, audiologist licensed under chapter 397a,  
18 pharmacist licensed under chapter 400j or paramedic licensed pursuant  
19 to chapter 384d who is providing health care or other health services  
20 through the use of telehealth within such person's scope of practice and  
21 in accordance with the standard of care applicable to the profession, and  
22 (B) any person who is enrolled in a doctorate degree program in  
23 psychology approved under section 20-189 at an institution of higher  
24 education in the state who is providing, under the supervision of a  
25 psychologist licensed under chapter 383, professional psychological  
26 services, as defined in section 20-187a, as amended by this act, through  
27 the use of telehealth within a psychologist's scope of practice and in  
28 accordance with the standard of care applicable to the profession of  
29 psychology.

30 Sec. 2. Section 20-187a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

32 No person shall practice psychology unless [he] such person (1) has  
33 obtained a license as provided in section 20-188, or (2) is enrolled in a  
34 doctorate degree program in psychology approved under section 20-189  
35 at an institution of higher education in the state and providing, under  
36 the supervision of a psychologist licensed under this chapter,  
37 professional psychological services either in person or through the use  
38 of telehealth, as defined in section 19a-906, as amended by this act. The  
39 practice of psychology means the rendering of professional  
40 psychological services under any title or description of services  
41 incorporating the words psychologist, psychological or psychology, to  
42 the public or to any public or private organization for a fee or other  
43 remuneration. [Professional psychological services] As used in this  
44 section, "professional psychological services" means the application, by  
45 [persons] a person trained in psychology, of established principles of  
46 learning, motivation, perception, thinking and emotional relationships  
47 to the assessment, diagnosis, prevention, treatment and amelioration of  
48 psychological problems or emotional or mental disorders of individuals

49 or groups, including but not limited to counseling, guidance,  
50 psychotherapy, behavior modification and personnel evaluation, with  
51 persons or groups in the areas of work, family, school, marriage and  
52 personal relationships; measuring and testing of personality,  
53 intelligence, aptitudes, emotions, public opinion, attitudes and skills;  
54 and research relating to human behavior.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	19a-906(a)(12)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	20-187a

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

---

**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill allows psychology doctorate students at in-state higher education institutions to provide professional psychological services in person and through telehealth while under the supervision of a state-licensed psychologist. This has no fiscal impact on the state.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 5480**

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill allows psychology doctorate students at in-state higher education institutions to provide professional psychological services in person and through telehealth while under the supervision of a state-licensed psychologist.

Under the bill, they must provide telehealth services within their profession’s scope of practice and standard of care, just as other telehealth providers must do under existing law.

The existing psychology licensure law specifies that it does not limit the activities and services of a psychology graduate student, intern, or resident, if those activities are part of a supervised course of study at an approved educational institution (CGS § 20-195(a)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/23/2022)