



HOUSE BILL 671: Behavior Analyst Licensure.

This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 22, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. McGrady, Setzer, Jackson, Shepard	Prepared by:	Jeremy Ray* Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 671 would establish a licensure process for behavior analysts. The new Board would have fee-setting authority with respect to licensure applications and renewals, subject to statutory maximums set out in the bill.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would create Article 43, Behavior Analyst Licensure, in Chapter 90, which sets out the following:

- **Declaration of Purpose** (90-726.1). The stated purpose is to protect the public from unqualified persons or unprofessional, unethical, or harmful conduct as it relates to the practice of behavior analysis.
- **Definitions** (90-726.2). Definitions would be created for "behavior analysis," "behavior technician," "Board," "certifying entity," "institution of higher education," "licensed assistant behavior analyst," "licensed behavior analyst," and "practice of behavior analysis."
- **Board** (90-726.3). The North Carolina Behavior Analysis Board (Board) would be established with seven members serving staggered terms.
 - The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Speaker of the House, would appoint three members who are certified as Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
 - The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, would appoint three members who are certified as Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
 - The Governor would appoint one member of the public.

This section would also establish the qualifications for Board members, set out the process for filling vacant seats on the Board, establish rules for removing members of the Board, and provide for per diem and travel expense reimbursement for Board members.

- **Board Powers** (90-726.4). The Board would have the power to administer the Article, adopt rules, evaluate applicants for licensure, issue licenses, establish fees, discipline licensees, adopt a seal, and conduct investigations.
- **Annual Report** (90-726.5). The Board must submit a report to the Governor on June 30 of each year.
- **License Application** (90-726.6). Individuals seeking licensure are required to meet the following criteria: (i) be of good moral character, (ii) not engage in conduct that would be grounds for license revocation, (iii) submit a criminal history record, and (iv) qualify for licensure under the Article.

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- **Behavior Analyst License Requirements (90-726.7).** Individuals seeking licensure as a behavior analyst must be at least 18, pass an exam, and be actively certified as a behavioral analyst.
- **Assistant Behavior Analyst License Requirements (90-726.8).** Individuals seeking licensure as an assistant behavior analyst must be at least 18, pass an exam, be actively certified as an assistant behavioral analyst, and have a supervisory arrangement with a certified behavior analyst.
- **License Renewal (90-726.10).** Licenses would be valid for two years. They could be renewed after providing proof of completion of continuing education requirements, payment of a renewal fee, and evidence of current certification.
- **Temporary Licenses (90-276.11).** Behavior analysts licensed in other states may receive licenses to temporarily practice in North Carolina. The temporary license would only be valid for a defined and limited time period.
- **Reciprocity (90-276.11).** Licensure by reciprocity is permitted when the other state has comparable licensure requirements and upon the applicant's submission of specified documents.
- **Denial, Suspension, and Revocation of Licenses (90-726.12).** The Board can take disciplinary action against licensees and applicants who violate a Code of Conduct. Costs of the disciplinary process may be assessed against the licensee or applicant. Confidential client information may be withheld from the public record.
- **Fees (90-726.13).** Fees collected by the Board would be established pursuant to rules, but must not exceed the following: Application: \$250; Renewal: \$200; Late Renewal: \$50; Reciprocal application: \$250; Temporary License: \$100.
- **Criminal History Record Checks (90-726.14).** All applicants for licensure must consent to a criminal record background check and pay for the costs of the background check. Convictions would not automatically bar an applicant from licensure.
- **Exemptions from Licensure (90-726.15).** Psychologists, social workers, family members of patients, and individuals who provide behavior analysis services to nonhuman subjects are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Article.
- **Prohibited Acts (90-726.16).** Unlicensed individuals may not practice behavior analysis. Violation would be a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- **Injunction (90-726.17).** The Board would be able to seek injunctions to prevent violations of the Article.

Section 3 would add a new section to Chapter 8 clarifying that behavior analysts are not required to disclose information about their patients in court unless compelled to do so by a judge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 2 would be effective January 1, 2020, and apply to acts committed on or after that date. The remainder of the bill would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The Behavior Analyst Certification Board <http://www.bacb.com/> provides credentialing for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and the Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA). [Section 22.3 of S.L. 2017-57](#), the Appropriations Act of 2017, requires insurers to provide coverage for adaptive behavior treatment supervised or provided by a board-certified behavior analyst.

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**Theresa Matula, Jason Moran-Bates, and Trina Griffin of the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*