

**Senate Study Bill 1162 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON RAGAN)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to prescription authority for certain  
2 psychologists and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 123.3, subsection 35, Code 2013, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 35. "Pharmacy" means a drug store in which drugs and  
4 medicines are exposed for sale and sold at retail, or in which  
5 prescriptions of licensed physicians and surgeons, dentists,  
6 prescribing psychologists, or veterinarians are compounded and  
7 sold by a registered pharmacist.

8 Sec. 2. Section 124.101, subsection 26, paragraph a, Code  
9 2013, is amended to read as follows:

10 a. A physician, dentist, podiatric physician, prescribing  
11 psychologist, veterinarian, scientific investigator or  
12 other person licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to  
13 distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to, or to  
14 administer a controlled substance in the course of professional  
15 practice or research in this state.

16 Sec. 3. Section 147.107, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2013, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 1. A person, other than a pharmacist, physician,  
19 dentist, podiatric physician, prescribing psychologist, or  
20 veterinarian who dispenses as an incident to the practice of  
21 the practitioner's profession, shall not dispense prescription  
22 drugs or controlled substances.

23 2. a. A pharmacist, physician, dentist, ~~or~~ podiatric  
24 physician, or prescribing psychologist who dispenses  
25 prescription drugs, including but not limited to controlled  
26 substances, for human use, may delegate nonjudgmental  
27 dispensing functions to staff assistants only when verification  
28 of the accuracy and completeness of the dispensing is  
29 determined by the pharmacist or practitioner in the  
30 pharmacist's or practitioner's physical presence. However, the  
31 physical presence requirement does not apply when a pharmacist  
32 or practitioner is utilizing an automated dispensing system or  
33 when a pharmacist is utilizing a tech-check-tech program, as  
34 defined in section 155A.3. When using an automated dispensing  
35 system the pharmacist or practitioner shall utilize an

1 internal quality control assurance plan that ensures accuracy  
2 for dispensing. When using a tech-check-tech program the  
3 pharmacist shall utilize an internal quality control assurance  
4 plan, in accordance with rules adopted by the board of  
5 pharmacy, that ensures accuracy for dispensing. Verification  
6 of automated dispensing and tech-check-tech accuracy and  
7 completeness remains the responsibility of the pharmacist or  
8 practitioner and shall be determined in accordance with rules  
9 adopted by the board of pharmacy, the board of medicine, the  
10 dental board, ~~and~~ the board of podiatry, and the board of  
11 psychology for their respective licensees.

12 *b.* A dentist, physician, ~~or~~ podiatric physician, or  
13 prescribing psychologist who dispenses prescription drugs,  
14 other than drug samples, pursuant to this subsection, shall  
15 report the fact that they dispense prescription drugs with the  
16 practitioner's respective board at least biennially.

17 *c.* A physician, dentist, ~~or~~ podiatric physician, or  
18 prescribing psychologist who dispenses prescription drugs,  
19 other than drug samples, pursuant to this subsection, shall  
20 offer to provide the patient with a written prescription that  
21 may be dispensed from a pharmacy of the patient's choice or  
22 offer to transmit the prescription orally, electronically, or  
23 by facsimile in accordance with section 155A.27 to a pharmacy  
24 of the patient's choice.

25 **Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 148.13A Authority of board as to**  
26 **supervising physicians under chapter 154B.**

27 The board of medicine shall establish by rule specific  
28 procedures for consulting with and considering the advice of  
29 the board of psychology in determining whether to initiate  
30 a disciplinary proceeding under chapter 17A against a  
31 licensed physician in a matter involving the supervision of a  
32 psychologist prescribing medication pursuant to a conditional  
33 prescription certificate under chapter 154B.

34 **Sec. 5. Section 154B.1, Code 2013, is amended to read as**  
35 **follows:**

1     **154B.1 Definition Definitions.**

2     As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
3 requires:

4     1. "Board" means the board of psychology created under  
5 chapter 147.

6     2. "Collaborative relationship" means a cooperative  
7 working relationship between a prescribing psychologist or a  
8 psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate and a  
9 licensed physician in the provision of patient care, including  
10 diagnosis and cooperation in the management and delivery of  
11 physical and mental health care.

12     3. "Conditional prescription certificate" means a document  
13 issued by the board to a licensed psychologist that permits  
14 the holder to prescribe psychotropic medication under the  
15 supervision of a licensed physician pursuant to this chapter.

16     4. "Practice of psychology" means the application of  
17 established principles of learning, motivation, perception,  
18 thinking, and emotional relations to problems of behavior  
19 adjustment, group relations, and behavior modification,  
20 by persons trained in psychology for compensation or other  
21 personal gain. The application of principles includes, but  
22 is not limited to: Counseling and the use of psychological  
23 remedial measures with persons, in groups or individually,  
24 with adjustment or emotional problems in the areas of work,  
25 family, school, and personal relationships; measuring and  
26 testing personality, intelligence, aptitudes, public opinion,  
27 attitudes, and skills; and the teaching of such subject matter,  
28 and the conducting of research on the problems relating to  
29 human behavior.

30     5. "Prescribing psychologist" means a licensed psychologist  
31 who holds a valid prescription certificate.

32     6. "Prescription certificate" means a document issued by the  
33 board to a licensed psychologist that permits the holder to  
34 prescribe psychotropic medication pursuant to this chapter.

35     7. "Psychotropic medication" means a controlled substance

1 or dangerous drug that may not be dispensed or administered  
2 without a prescription and whose primary indication for use  
3 has been approved by the federal food and drug administration  
4 for the treatment of mental disorders and is listed as a  
5 psychotherapeutic agent in drug facts and comparisons or in the  
6 American hospital formulary service.

7 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 154B.9 **Drugs — medicines.**

8 1. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, a psychologist  
9 shall not administer or prescribe drugs or medicine.

10 2. A licensed psychologist holding a conditional  
11 prescription certificate may prescribe psychotropic medication  
12 under the supervision of a licensed physician pursuant to this  
13 chapter.

14 3. A prescribing psychologist may prescribe psychotropic  
15 medication pursuant to this chapter.

16 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 154B.10 **Conditional prescription**  
17 **certificate.**

18 1. An applicant for a conditional prescription certificate  
19 shall be granted a certificate by the board if the applicant  
20 satisfies all of the following requirements:

21 a. Holds a current license to practice psychology in this  
22 state.

23 b. Completed pharmacological training from an institution  
24 approved by the board or from a provider of continuing  
25 education approved by the board.

26 c. Passed a national certification examination approved by  
27 the board that tested the applicant's knowledge of pharmacology  
28 in the diagnosis, care, and treatment of mental disorders.

29 d. Within five years immediately preceding the date of  
30 application, successfully completed an organized program of  
31 education consisting of intensive didactic instruction of no  
32 fewer than four hundred fifty classroom hours in at least the  
33 following core areas of instruction:

34 (1) Neuroscience.

35 (2) Pharmacology.

1 (3) Psychopharmacology.

2 (4) Physiology.

3 (5) Appropriate and relevant physical and laboratory  
4 assessment.

5 e. Within five years immediately preceding the date of  
6 application, has been certified by the applicant's supervising  
7 psychiatrist or physician as having successfully completed  
8 a supervised and relevant clinical experience of no less  
9 than an eighty-hour practicum in clinical assessment and  
10 pathophysiology and an additional supervised practicum of at  
11 least four hundred hours treating no fewer than one hundred  
12 patients with mental disorders. The practica shall have been  
13 supervised by a psychiatrist or other appropriately trained  
14 physician. The board shall determine whether the practica is  
15 sufficient to competently train the applicant in the treatment  
16 of a diverse patient population.

17 f. Possesses malpractice insurance in place that will cover  
18 the applicant during the period the conditional prescription  
19 certificate is in effect.

20 g. Meets all other requirements, as determined by rules  
21 adopted by the board, for obtaining a conditional prescription  
22 certificate.

23 2. A conditional prescription certificate is valid for two  
24 years, at the end of which the holder may apply again pursuant  
25 to the provisions of subsection 1.

26 3. A psychologist with a conditional prescription  
27 certificate may prescribe psychotropic medication under the  
28 supervision of a licensed physician subject to all of the  
29 following conditions:

30 a. The psychologist shall continue to hold a current license  
31 to practice psychology in this state and continue to maintain  
32 malpractice insurance.

33 b. The psychologist shall inform the board of the name of  
34 the physician under whose supervision the psychologist will  
35 prescribe psychotropic medication and promptly inform the board

1 of any change of the supervising physician.

2 *c.* A physician supervising a psychologist prescribing  
3 psychotropic medication pursuant to a conditional prescription  
4 certificate shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to  
5 section 148.13A for the acts and omissions of the psychologist  
6 while under the physician's supervision. This provision  
7 does not relieve the psychologist from liability for the  
8 psychologist's acts and omissions.

9 **Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 154B.11 Prescription certificate.**

10 1. An applicant for a prescription certificate shall be  
11 granted a certificate by the board if the applicant satisfies  
12 all of the following requirements:

13 *a.* Possesses a conditional prescription certificate and has  
14 successfully completed one year of prescribing psychotropic  
15 medication as certified by the supervising licensed physician.

16 *b.* Holds a current license to practice psychology in this  
17 state.

18 *c.* Possesses malpractice insurance that will cover the  
19 applicant as a prescribing psychologist.

20 *d.* Meets all other requirements, as determined by rules  
21 adopted by the board, for obtaining a prescription certificate.

22 2. A psychologist with a prescription certificate may  
23 prescribe psychotropic medication pursuant to the provisions of  
24 this chapter subject to the following conditions:

25 *a.* The psychologist continues to hold a current license to  
26 practice psychology in this state and maintains malpractice  
27 insurance.

28 *b.* The psychologist annually satisfies the continuing  
29 education requirements for prescribing psychologists, as  
30 determined by the board, which shall be no fewer than twenty  
31 hours each year.

32 **Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 154B.12 Prescribing practices.**

33 1. A prescribing psychologist or a psychologist with  
34 a conditional prescription certificate may administer and  
35 prescribe psychotropic medication within the scope of the

1 psychologist's profession, including the ordering and review of  
2 laboratory tests in conjunction with the prescription, for the  
3 treatment of mental disorders.

4 2. When prescribing psychotropic medication for a  
5 patient, the prescribing psychologist or the psychologist  
6 with a conditional prescription certificate shall maintain  
7 an ongoing collaborative relationship with the licensed  
8 physician who oversees the patient's general medical care to  
9 ensure that necessary medical examinations are conducted,  
10 the psychotropic medication is appropriate for the patient's  
11 medical condition, and significant changes in the patient's  
12 medical or psychological condition are discussed.

13 3. A prescription written by a prescribing psychologist or a  
14 psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate shall  
15 meet all of the following requirements:

16 a. Comply with applicable state and federal laws.

17 b. Be identified as issued by the psychologist as  
18 "psychologist certified to prescribe".

19 c. Include the psychologist's board-assigned identification  
20 number.

21 4. A prescribing psychologist or a psychologist with  
22 a conditional prescription certificate shall not delegate  
23 prescriptive authority to any other person. Records of all  
24 prescriptions shall be maintained in patient records.

25 5. When authorized to prescribe controlled substances, a  
26 prescribing psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional  
27 prescription certificate shall file with the board in a  
28 timely manner all individual federal drug enforcement agency  
29 registration and numbers. The board shall maintain current  
30 records on every psychologist, including federal registration  
31 and numbers.

32 **Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 154B.13 Board duties regarding**  
33 **prescription certificates and conditional prescription**  
34 **certificates.**

35 1. The board shall adopt rules providing for the



1 procedures to obtain a conditional prescription certificate,  
2 a prescription certificate, and renewals of a prescription  
3 certificate. The board may set reasonable application and  
4 renewal fees.

5 2. The board shall adopt rules establishing the grounds for  
6 denial, suspension, or revocation of conditional prescription  
7 certificates and prescription certificates, including a  
8 provision for suspension or revocation of a license to practice  
9 psychology upon suspension or revocation of a certificate.

10 3. The board shall provide to the board of pharmacy an  
11 annual list of prescribing psychologists and psychologists  
12 with conditional prescription certificates that contains  
13 the information agreed upon between the board and the board  
14 of pharmacy. The board shall promptly notify the board of  
15 pharmacy of psychologists who are added to or removed from the  
16 list.

17 4. The board shall adopt other rules as necessary to  
18 administer this chapter.

19 Sec. 11. Section 155A.3, subsection 35, Code 2013, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 35. "*Practitioner*" means a physician, dentist, podiatric  
22 physician, prescribing psychologist, veterinarian, or other  
23 person licensed or registered to distribute or dispense a  
24 prescription drug or device in the course of professional  
25 practice in this state or a person licensed by another state  
26 in a health field in which, under Iowa law, licensees in this  
27 state may legally prescribe drugs.

28 Sec. 12. Section 155A.23, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
29 2013, is amended to read as follows:

30 c. For the purpose of obtaining a prescription drug or  
31 device, falsely assuming the title of or claiming to be  
32 a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacist, pharmacy owner,  
33 physician, dentist, podiatric physician, prescribing  
34 psychologist, veterinarian, or other authorized person.

35 Sec. 13. Section 155A.24, subsection 14, Code 2013, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 14. This section does not prevent a licensed practitioner of  
3 medicine, dentistry, podiatry, nursing, psychology, veterinary  
4 medicine, optometry, or pharmacy from acts necessary in the  
5 ethical and legal performance of the practitioner's profession.

6 EXPLANATION

7 This bill grants prescription authority to certain licensed  
8 psychologists under Code chapter 154B.

9 The bill adds definitions of "board", "collaborative  
10 relationship", "conditional prescription certificate",  
11 "prescribing psychologist", "prescription certificate", and  
12 "psychotropic medication" to the Code chapter.

13 The bill allows a licensed psychologist holding a  
14 conditional prescription certificate and a prescribing  
15 psychologist, defined as a licensed psychologist who holds  
16 a valid prescription certificate, to prescribe psychotropic  
17 medication. However, the psychologist holding a conditional  
18 prescription certificate may only prescribe psychotropic  
19 medication under the supervision of a licensed physician.

20 The bill sets the requirements for a psychologist to obtain  
21 a conditional prescription certificate or a prescription  
22 certificate. A conditional prescription certificate is  
23 valid for two years and a psychologist may reapply for the  
24 certificate. To receive a prescription certificate, a  
25 psychologist must complete one year of prescribing psychotropic  
26 medication as supervised by a licensed physician. The licensed  
27 physician may be subject to disciplinary action for the  
28 acts and omissions of the psychologist under the physician's  
29 supervision. A psychologist must maintain licensure as  
30 a psychologist and malpractice insurance to retain the  
31 prescription certificate or the conditional prescription  
32 certificate.

33 The bill provides that a prescribing psychologist or  
34 psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate may  
35 administer and prescribe psychotropic medication within the

1 scope of the person's profession. The prescribing psychologist  
2 or psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate  
3 must maintain a relationship with the patient's licensed  
4 physician when prescribing psychotropic medication for the  
5 patient.

6 The bill states that a prescription written by a  
7 prescribing psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional  
8 prescription certificate must comply with state and federal  
9 law, be identified as issued by a "psychologist certified to  
10 prescribe", and include the psychologist's board-assigned  
11 identification number. A prescribing psychologist or  
12 psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate  
13 may not delegate the prescriptive authority to any other  
14 person, and records of the prescriptions must be maintained  
15 in the patient's records. The prescribing psychologist or  
16 psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate must  
17 also file federal drug enforcement agency registrations and  
18 numbers with the board.

19 The bill instructs the board of psychology to adopt rules  
20 providing for the procedures for obtaining a conditional  
21 prescription certificate, a prescription certificate, and  
22 renewal of the prescription certificate. The board may  
23 also set a reasonable application and renewal fee. The  
24 board must adopt rules regarding the denial, suspension,  
25 or revocation of conditional prescription certificates and  
26 prescription certificates. The board must provide the board of  
27 pharmacy with an annual list of prescribing psychologists and  
28 psychologists with conditional prescription certificates and  
29 promptly notify the board of pharmacy of psychologists who are  
30 added to or removed from the list.

31 A prescribing psychologist may be subject to criminal and  
32 civil penalties and licensing sanctions under Code chapters  
33 124, 147, 154B, and 155A.

34 The bill makes conforming changes in Code chapters 123, 124,  
35 147, and 155A.