



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

February 20, 2015

Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101

House Bill 5521 - An Act Requiring Licensure of Master's Level Psychologists

The Department is opposed to HB 5521, which requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create a Master Level Psychologist licensure category.

Existing statute (CGS Chapter 383c) affords the opportunity for licensure as a professional counselor to individuals with a master's degree in psychology and other related disciplines. Licensure as a professional counselor does not preclude an individual from obtaining additional qualifications for licensure as a psychologist under CGS Chapter 383.

The Department would not be able to create an additional licensure category within existing resources. Consequently, due to the additional resources that would be needed to implement the requirements associated with this bill, the Department is not supportive at this time.

Additionally, the legislature established a scope of practice review process (CGS 19a-16d) for the submission and review by the DPH of requests from health care professions seeking to revise or establish a scope of practice prior to review by the General Assembly. DPH has not received a submission for a scope of practice review for Masters Level Psychologists since this process was implemented in 2012.

The scope of practice review process allows other professions that may be directly impacted by a scope of practice request to identify the nature of that impact and participate in the scope of practice review process. The process also allows for an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request, whether the request may enhance access to quality and affordable health care and whether the request enhances the ability of the profession to practice to the full extent of the profession's education and training. In the absence of this process and the information that it provides, the Department opposes HB 5521.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's opinion on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100, Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*