



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5480

LCO No. 3378



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

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2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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 Section 20-187a of the general statutes is repealed and the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

Statement of Purpose:

To permit students enrolled in a doctorate degree program in psychology at an institution of higher education in the state to provide professional psychological services in person and through the use of telehealth while under the supervision of a licensed psychologist to improve the accessibility of mental health services in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]