$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$  the Committees on Appropriations; and Health Policy; and Senator Bean

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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to behavior analysts; amending s.
3	20.43, F.S.; establishing the Board of Applied
4	Behavior Analysis within the Division of Medical
5	Quality Assurance; amending s. 456.001, F.S.;
6	including licensed behavior analysts and licensed
7	assistant behavior analysts in the definition of
8	"health care practitioner"; amending s. 456.0135,
9	F.S.; requiring an applicant for licensure under
10	chapter 470, F.S., to submit to certain fingerprinting
11	requirements; creating chapter 470, F.S.; entitling
12	the chapter; creating s. 470.40, F.S.; providing a
13	purpose; creating s. 470.41, F.S.; defining terms;
14	creating s. 470.415, F.S.; creating the Board of
15	Applied Behavior Analysis; providing for membership
16	and terms of members; creating s. 470.42, F.S.;
17	creating rulemaking authority for the board and the
18	department; creating s. 470.43, F.S.; providing
19	requirements for licensure as a behavior analyst or
20	assistant behavior analyst; creating s. 470.44, F.S.;
21	providing requirements for renewal of license;
22	creating s. 470.45, F.S.; establishing maximum fees
23	for applications, initial licenses, and license
24	renewals; requiring fees collected by the department
25	to be deposited in to a specified trust fund; creating
26	s. 470.46, F.S.; providing grounds for denial of
27	license or disciplinary action; creating s. 470.47,
28	F.S.; providing penalties for practicing applied
29	behavior analysis without a license or wrongfully

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576-04561A-14 20141212c2 30 identifying oneself as a licensed behavior analyst or 31 licensed assistant behavior analyst; creating s. 32 470.48, F.S.; providing exceptions to applicability of the chapter; providing appropriations and authorizing 33 34 positions; providing an effective date. 35 36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 37 38 Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 39 20.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 40 20.43 Department of Health.-There is created a Department of Health. 41 42 (3) The following divisions of the Department of Health are 43 established: 44 (g) Division of Medical Quality Assurance, which is 45 responsible for the following boards and professions established 46 within the division: 47 1. The Board of Acupuncture, created under chapter 457. 2. The Board of Medicine, created under chapter 458. 48 49 3. The Board of Osteopathic Medicine, created under chapter 459. 50 51 4. The Board of Chiropractic Medicine, created under 52 chapter 460. 53 5. The Board of Podiatric Medicine, created under chapter 461. 54 6. Naturopathy, as provided under chapter 462. 55 7. The Board of Optometry, created under chapter 463. 56 57 8. The Board of Nursing, created under part I of chapter 58 464.

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59	9. Nursing assistants, as provided under part II of chapter
60	464.
61	10. The Board of Pharmacy, created under chapter 465.
62	11. The Board of Dentistry, created under chapter 466.
63	12. Midwifery, as provided under chapter 467.
64	13. The Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology,
65	created under part I of chapter 468.
66	14. The Board of Nursing Home Administrators, created under
67	part II of chapter 468.
68	15. The Board of Occupational Therapy, created under part
69	III of chapter 468.
70	16. Respiratory therapy, as provided under part V of
71	chapter 468.
72	17. Dietetics and nutrition practice, as provided under
73	part X of chapter 468.
74	18. The Board of Athletic Training, created under part XIII
75	of chapter 468.
76	19. The Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists, created under
77	part XIV of chapter 468.
78	20. The Board of Applied Behavior Analysis, created under
79	chapter 470.
80	21. <del>20.</del> Electrolysis, as provided under chapter 478.
81	22. <del>21.</del> The Board of Massage Therapy, created under chapter
82	480.
83	23. <del>22.</del> The Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel, created
84	under part III of chapter 483.
85	24.23. Medical physicists, as provided under part IV of
86	chapter 483.
87	25.24. The Board of Opticianry, created under part I of
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88	chapter 484.
89	26.25. The Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, created under
90	part II of chapter 484.
91	27.26. The Board of Physical Therapy Practice, created
92	under chapter 486.
93	28.27. The Board of Psychology, created under chapter 490.
94	29.28. School psychologists, as provided under chapter 490.
95	30.29. The Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and
96	Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling, created under
97	chapter 491.
98	31.30. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics, as
99	provided under part III of chapter 401.
100	Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 456.001, Florida
101	Statutes, is amended to read:
102	456.001 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
103	(4) "Health care practitioner" means any person licensed
104	under chapter 457; chapter 458; chapter 459; chapter 460;
105	chapter 461; chapter 462; chapter 463; chapter 464; chapter 465;
106	chapter 466; chapter 467; part I, part II, part III, part V,
107	part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468; <u>chapter 470;</u>
108	chapter 478; chapter 480; part III or part IV of chapter 483;
109	chapter 484; chapter 486; chapter 490; or chapter 491.
110	Section 3. Section 456.0135, Florida Statutes, is amended
111	to read:
112	456.0135 General background screening provisions
113	(1) An application for initial licensure received on or
114	after January 1, 2013, under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
115	460, chapter 461, chapter 464, <del>or</del> s. 465.022 <u>, or chapter 470</u>
116	shall include fingerprints pursuant to procedures established by
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576-04561A-14 20141212c2 117 the department through a vendor approved by the Department of 118 Law Enforcement and fees imposed for the initial screening and 119 retention of fingerprints. Fingerprints must be submitted 120 electronically to the Department of Law Enforcement for state 121 processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward 122 the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 123 national processing. Each board, or the department if there is 124 no board, shall screen the results to determine if an applicant 125 meets licensure requirements. For any subsequent renewal of the 126 applicant's license that requires a national criminal history 127 check, the department shall request the Department of Law 128 Enforcement to forward the retained fingerprints of the 129 applicant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 130 (2) All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law 131 Enforcement as required under subsection (1) shall be retained 132 by the Department of Law Enforcement as provided under s. 133 943.05(2)(q) and (h) and (3). The department shall notify the 134 Department of Law Enforcement regarding any person whose 135 fingerprints have been retained but who is no longer licensed. 136 (3) The costs of fingerprint processing, including the cost 137 for retaining fingerprints, shall be borne by the applicant 138 subject to the background screening. Section 4. Chapter 470, Florida Statutes, is created and 139 140 entitled "Behavior Analysts." Section 5. Section 470.40, Florida Statutes, is created to 141 142 read: 143 470.40 Purpose.-The Legislature finds that the practice of applied behavior analysis in this state by unskilled and 144 145 incompetent practitioners presents a danger to the health and

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146	safety of the public. The Legislature finds further that it is
147	difficult for the public to make informed choices about behavior
148	analysts and that the consequences of a wrong choice could
149	endanger public health. This act is intended to protect the
150	public from the harmful conduct of unqualified, unprofessional,
151	or unethical behavior analysts.
152	Section 6. Section 470.41, Florida Statutes, is created to
153	read:
154	470.41 DefinitionsAs used in this chapter, the term:
155	(1) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design,
156	implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications,
157	using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially
158	significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not
159	limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement, and
160	functional analysis of the relations between environment and
161	behavior. The term does not include psychological testing, the
162	diagnosis of a mental or physical disorder, neuropsychology,
163	psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis,
164	hypnotherapy, or long-term counseling.
165	(2) "Board" means the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis
166	established in s. 470.415, except when the term is used in the
167	context of board certification.
168	(3) "Board-certified behavior analyst" means a practitioner
169	who is certified as a behavior analyst, or is recognized as a
170	Florida-certified behavior analyst, by the national Behavior
171	Analyst Certification Board (BACB).
172	(4) "Board-certified assistant behavior analyst" means a
173	practitioner who is certified by the national Behavior Analyst
174	Certification Board, as an assistant behavior analyst.

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175	(5) "Department" means the Department of Health.
176	(6) "Licensed behavior analyst" means an individual who is
177	licensed by the board and meets the requirements of this
178	chapter.
179	(7) "Licensed assistant behavior analyst" means an
180	individual who is licensed by the board as an assistant behavior
181	analyst and meets the requirements of this chapter.
182	Section 7. Section 470.415, Florida Statutes, is created to
183	read:
184	470.415 Board of Applied Behavior Analysis.—
185	(1) The Board of Applied Behavior Analysis is created
186	within the department. The board consists of seven members
187	appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
188	(2) The initial board members, who are not required to be
189	licensed as a condition of appointment, shall be appointed as
190	<u>follows:</u>
191	(a) Three board-certified behavior analysts, two of whom
192	must hold a doctoral level degree. One shall be appointed to a
193	4-year term, one shall be appointed to a 2-year term, and one
194	shall be appointed to a 1-year term;
195	(b) One board-certified assistant behavior analyst, who
196	shall be appointed to a 3-year term;
197	(c) One psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 490 or
198	one clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or
199	mental health counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 491, who
200	shall be appointed to a 3-year term. The majority of the
201	appointee's professional practice must be related to the
202	treatment of behavior disorders, including, but not limited to,
203	autism spectrum disorders; and

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204	(d) Two laypersons, who may include a parent or guardian of
205	an individual who is a recipient of applied behavior analysis
206	services, one of whom shall serve a 4-year term, and one of whom
207	shall serve a 2-year term.
208	(3) As the terms of the initial members expire, the
209	Governor shall appoint successors for 4-year terms. Each
210	successor, except for the laypersons, must be licensed. A member
211	may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
212	Section 8. Section 470.42, Florida Statutes, is created to
213	read:
214	470.42 Rulemaking authority
215	(1) The board has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss.
216	120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
217	chapter conferring duties upon it. Such rules must include, but
218	are not limited to, rules relating to:
219	(a) Standards of practice for licensed behavior analysts
220	and licensed assistant behavior analysts.
221	(b) Supervision of licensed assistant behavior analysts, or
222	students in training to be licensed behavior analysts or
223	licensed assistant behavior analysts, including the number of
224	persons that a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant
225	behavior analyst may supervise at one time.
226	(2) The department may adopt rules to implement the
227	provisions of this chapter conferring duties upon it. Such rules
228	shall include, but are not limited to, rules relating to
229	licensure and license renewal applications, processes, and fees.
230	Section 9. Section 470.43, Florida Statutes, is created to
231	read:
232	470.43 Licensure

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233	(1) The department shall license an applicant as a behavior
234	analyst if the applicant:
235	(a) Submits a completed application to the department using
236	a form approved by the board;
237	(b) Remits the appropriate fees;
238	(c) Has passed a criminal background check after submitting
239	fingerprints and a fee pursuant to s. 456.0135; and
240	(d) Submits proof that the applicant is a board-certified
241	behavior analyst.
242	(2) The department shall license an applicant as an
243	assistant behavior analyst if the applicant:
244	(a) Submits a completed application to the department using
245	a form approved by the board;
246	(b) Remits the appropriate fees;
247	(c) Has passed a criminal background check after submitting
248	fingerprints and a fee pursuant to s. 456.0135;
249	(d) Submits proof to the department that the applicant is a
250	board-certified assistant behavior analyst; and
251	(e) Identifies a supervising licensed behavior analyst who
252	is qualified to supervise the applicant under BACB requirements
253	and this chapter.
254	Section 10. Section 470.44, Florida Statutes, is created to
255	read:
256	470.44 Renewal of license
257	(1) The department shall renew a license upon receipt of
258	proof that the applicant is certified by the BACB and a
259	completed renewal application and fee.
260	(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing a
261	procedure for the biennial renewal of licenses.

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262	(3) The board shall by rule prescribe continuing education
263	not to exceed 32 hours required biennially as a condition for
264	renewal of a license as a behavior analyst, or not to exceed 20
265	hours required biennially as a condition for renewal of a
266	license as an assistant behavior analyst. The criteria for
267	continuing education programs shall be approved by the board.
268	The board may authorize by rule continuing education earned for
269	BACB certification to be used to meet the continuing education
270	requirements of this subsection.
271	Section 11. Section 470.45, Florida Statutes, is created to
272	read:
273	470.45 Fees
274	(1) The board shall establish by rule a fee not to exceed
275	\$100 for an application, \$300 for an initial license, or \$300
276	for license renewal.
277	(2) All moneys collected by the department under this
278	chapter shall be deposited in the Medical Quality Assurance
279	Trust Fund as provided under s. 456.025.
280	Section 12. Section 470.46, Florida Statutes, is created to
281	read:
282	470.46 Disciplinary actions
283	(1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a
284	license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2):
285	(a) Attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a license
286	under this chapter by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation or
287	through an error of the board or the department.
288	(b) Having a license to practice a comparable profession
289	revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the
290	denial of certification or licensure by another state,

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291	territory, or country.
292	(c) Being convicted or found guilty of, regardless of
293	adjudication, or having entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a
294	crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice
295	of his or her profession or the ability to practice his or her
296	profession. However, in the case of a plea of nolo contendere,
297	the board shall allow the person who is the subject of the
298	disciplinary proceeding to present evidence in mitigation
299	relevant to the underlying charges and circumstances surrounding
300	the plea.
301	(d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising or
302	obtaining a fee or other thing of value on the representation
303	that beneficial results from any treatment will be guaranteed.
304	(e) Advertising, practicing, or attempting to practice
305	under a name other than one's own.
306	(f) Maintaining a professional association with any person
307	who the applicant or licensee knows, or has reason to believe,
308	is in violation of this chapter or of a rule of the department
309	or the board.
310	(g) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any
311	nonlicensed person to hold himself or herself out as licensed
312	under this chapter.
313	(h) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation
314	placed upon a person licensed under this chapter.
315	(i) Willfully making or filing a false report or record;
316	failing to file a report or record required by state or federal
317	law; willfully impeding or obstructing the filing of a report or
318	record; or inducing another person to make or file a false
319	report or record or to impede or obstruct the filing of a report

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320	or record. Such report or record includes only a report or
321	record which requires the signature of a person licensed under
322	this chapter.
323	(j) Paying a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration
324	for receiving a patient or client, or receiving a kickback,
325	rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for referring a patient or
326	client to another provider of applied behavior analysis services
327	or to a provider of health care services or goods; referring a
328	patient or client to oneself for services on a fee-paid basis
329	when those services are already being paid for by some other
330	public or private entity; or entering into a reciprocal referral
331	agreement.
332	(k) Committing any act upon a patient or client which would
333	constitute sexual battery or which would constitute sexual
334	misconduct. Sexual misconduct shall be defined by rule by the
335	board.
336	(1) Making misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent
337	representations in the practice of applied behavior analysis.
338	(m) Soliciting patients or clients personally, or through
339	an agent, through the use of fraud, intimidation, undue
340	influence, or a form of overreaching or vexatious conduct.
341	(n) Failing to make available to a patient or client, upon
342	written request, copies of test results, reports, or documents
343	in the possession or under the control of the licensee which
344	have been prepared for and paid for by the patient or client.
345	(o) Failing to respond within 30 days to a written
346	communication from the department concerning any investigation
347	by the department, or failing to make available any relevant
348	records with respect to any investigation about the licensee's

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349 <u>conduct or background</u>.

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350 (p) Being unable to practice the profession for which he or 351 she is licensed under this chapter with reasonable skill or 352 competence as a result of any mental or physical condition or by 353 reason of illness; drunkenness; or excessive use of drugs, 354 narcotics, chemicals, or any other substance. In enforcing this 355 paragraph, upon a finding by the State Surgeon General, the 356 State Surgeon General's designee, or the board that probable 357 cause exists to believe that the licensee is unable to practice 358 the profession because of the reasons stated in this paragraph, 359 the department shall have the authority to compel a licensee to 360 submit to a mental or physical examination by a physician designated by the department or board. If the licensee refuses 361 362 to comply with such order, the department's order directing the 363 examination may be enforced by filing a petition for enforcement 364 in the circuit court in the circuit in which the licensee 365 resides or does business. The licensee against whom the petition 366 is filed may not be named or identified by initials in any 367 public court records or documents, and the proceedings shall be 368 closed to the public. The department shall be entitled to the 369 summary procedure provided in s. 51.011. A licensee affected 370 under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be afforded 371 an opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can resume the 372 competent practice for which he or she is licensed with 373 reasonable skill and safety to patients. 374 (q) Performing any treatment or prescribing any therapy

375 which, by the prevailing standards of the behavior analysts in 376 the community, would constitute experimentation on human 377 subjects, without first obtaining full, informed, and written

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378	consent.
379	(r) Failing to meet the minimum standards of performance in
380	professional activities when measured against generally
381	prevailing peer performance, including the undertaking of
382	activities for which the licensee is not qualified by training
383	or experience.
384	(s) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person
385	whom the licensee knows or has reason to know is not qualified
386	by training or experience to perform such responsibilities.
387	(t) Violating a rule relating to the regulation of the
388	profession or a lawful order of the department or the board
389	previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.
390	(u) Failure of the licensee to maintain in confidence a
391	communication made by a patient or client in the context of such
392	services.
393	(v) Making public statements which are derived from test
394	data, client contacts, or behavioral research and which identify
395	or damage research subjects or clients.
396	(w) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter 456,
397	or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.
398	(2) The board may enter an order denying licensure or
399	imposing any of the penalties in s. 456.072(2) against any
400	applicant for licensure or licensee who is found guilty of
401	violating subsection (1) or who is found guilty of violating s.
402	456.072(1).
403	Section 13. Section 470.47, Florida Statutes, is created to
404	read:
405	470.47 Violations and penalties
406	(1) It is unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any
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407	person to engage in the practice of applied behavior analysis,
408	assist in the practice of applied behavior analysis, render
409	services designated as applied behavior analysis, or represent
410	himself or herself as a practitioner of applied behavior
411	analysis in this state unless she or he holds a valid, active
412	license as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst
413	pursuant to this chapter. Any person who violates any provision
414	of this subsection commits a felony of the third degree,
415	punishable as provided under s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.
416	775.084.
417	(2) It is unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any
418	person to use the following titles or any combination thereof,
419	unless she or he holds a valid, active license as a behavior
420	analyst or assistant behavior analyst pursuant to this chapter:
421	(a) "Licensed behavior analyst."
422	(b) "Licensed assistant behavior analyst."
423	(3) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (2)
424	commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
425	provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
426	Section 14. Section 470.48, Florida Statutes, is created to
427	read:
428	470.48 Exceptions to applicabilityThis chapter does not
429	prohibit or restrict the practice of the following:
430	(1) An individual licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or
431	chapter 459.
432	(2) An individual licensed pursuant to part III of chapter
433	468 if the occupational therapist does not represent himself or
434	herself as a behavior analyst.
435	(3) An individual licensed under chapter 490 to practice
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436	psychology.
437	(4) An individual licensed pursuant to chapter 491 as a
438	clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental
439	health counselor.
440	(5) A certified teacher authorized to practice in this
441	state who is not a behavior analyst if he or she does not
442	represent himself or herself as a behavior analyst. The services
443	provided by a certified teacher must be within his or her
444	authorized scope of practice and within the scope of his or her
445	education, training, and experience and must be provided in the
446	course of his or her employment in a program approved by the
447	Department of Education. Teaching assistants, other than those
448	engaged in pupil personnel services, and student support
449	professionals are exempt from the requirements of this chapter
450	if they provide applied behavior analysis services under the
451	supervision of a certified teacher who meets the requirements of
452	this subsection.
453	(6) A behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst who
454	practices with nonhuman clients, including, but not limited to,
455	applied animal behaviorists and animal trainers.
456	(7) An individual who teaches applied behavior analysis or
457	who conducts behavior analytic research if such teaching or
458	research does not involve the delivery of applied behavior
459	analysis.
460	(8) A matriculated college or university student or
461	postdoctoral fellow whose activities are part of a defined
462	behavior analysis program of study, practicum, or intensive
463	practicum if his or her practice under this subsection is
464	directly supervised by a licensed behavior analyst or an

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465	instructor of course sequence approved by the Behavior Analyst
466	Certification Board (BACB). A student or intern may not
467	represent himself or herself as a professional behavior analyst
468	but may use a title indicating his or her trainee status, such
469	as "behavior analyst student," "behavior analyst intern," or
470	"behavior analyst trainee."
471	(9) An unlicensed individual pursuing supervised
472	experiential training to meet eligibility requirements for BACB
473	certification if such training is supervised by a licensed
474	behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst who
475	meets BACB supervisor requirements and if the supervised
476	experience is conducted in accordance with other BACB standards
477	and requirements.
478	(10) A family member of a recipient of applied behavior
479	analysis services who implements certain procedures with the
480	recipient. Such a family member may not represent himself or
481	herself as a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant
482	behavior analyst.
483	(11) A behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst who
484	provides general behavior analysis services to organizations if
485	the services are for the benefit of the organizations and do not
486	involve direct services to individuals.
487	(12) A salaried employee of a private, nonprofit
488	organization providing behavior analysis services to children,
489	youth, and families if the services are provided for no charge,
490	the employee is performing duties for which he or she was
491	trained and hired, and the employee does not represent himself
492	or herself as a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant
493	behavior analyst.

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494	(13) A school psychologist certified in school psychology
495	by the Department of Education who performs behavior analysis
496	services as an employee of a public or private educational
497	institution. Such exemption does not authorize unlicensed
498	practice that is not performed directly as an employee of an
499	educational institution.
500	(14) A rabbi, priest, minister, or member of the clergy of
501	a religious denomination or sect if engaging in activities that
502	are within the scope of the performance of his or her regular or
503	specialized ministerial duties and for which no separate fee is
504	charged, or if such activities are performed, with or without a
505	fee, for or under the auspices or sponsorship, individually or
506	in conjunction with others, of an established and legally
507	cognizable church, denomination, or sect; and if the person
508	rendering service remains accountable to the established
509	authority thereof.
510	Section 15. (1) For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the sums of
511	\$113,541 in recurring funds and \$37,911 in nonrecurring funds
512	are appropriated from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund
513	to the Department of Health, and two full-time equivalent
514	positions with associated salary rate of 70,359 are authorized,
515	for the purpose of implementing the regulatory provisions of
516	this act.
517	(2) For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sums of \$77,266 in
518	recurring funds and \$26,592 in nonrecurring funds from the
519	Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund are appropriated to the
520	Department of Health for the purpose of implementing the
521	regulatory provisions of this act.
522	Section 16. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.

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