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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/16/11

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Professional Psychologist Licensure Requirements SB 377

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)  
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)  
 Attorney General's Office (AGO)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 377 (SB 377) amends the experience requirements for licensure under the New Mexico Professional Psychologist Act (Act) to conform to nationwide standards.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is neither an appropriation in the bill nor a fiscal impact to the state.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 377 removes the current requirements for internships and supervised training that an applicant for licensure must have, and substitutes alternatives that include supervised predoctoral practicum hours, internships or postdoctoral psychological work.

RLD reports that the new training requirement is a strong recommendation from the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Board to streamline the supervision in psychological work across boards and educational programs.

These organizations oversee the practice and educational requirements of psychologists nationally.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

This change will provide more flexibility in the practicum experience requirements allowing more prospective licensees to be eligible for licensure.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This will require the board to conduct a public rule hearing to change the rules and regulations to implement these requirements.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

NMCD reports that the bill could enable a significant number of psychology graduates who are unable to obtain APA-qualified internships and who have to opt for non-APA-qualified internships to obtain licensure in New Mexico. Since many NMCD inmates have mental illness issues even before entering prison, having a larger pool of licensed providers will be beneficial to the Department.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The current Act may continue to conflict with national standards for licensure as a professional psychologist in New Mexico.

AHO/svb