**2023 Legislative Report**

This report is compiled for members of FPA and includes legislation deemed to be of most important to the practice of psychology. It is by no means inclusive of all legislation that could have a potential impact on the practice of psychology.

**Legislation that passed:**

* **PSYPACT\*\*** (effective date: 7/1/23)

Legislation approves allowing Florida to join the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact ([PSYPACT](https://psypact.org/)) which is an interstate compact designed to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries. Click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h0033er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0033&Session=2023) to view the text of HB 33.

*FPA will host a PsyPACT webinar from 1-3 on June 23rd (2 CE) and as part of the 2023 annual convention. Please visit the* [*FPA website*](https://www.flapsych.com/default.aspx) *for details.*

* **Medical Conscience** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

Provides that health care providers and health care payors have the right to opt out of participation in or payment for certain health care services on the basis of conscience-based objections. It is recommended that members read [SB 1580](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s1580er.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1580&Session=2023) and the [staff analysis](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s1580er.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1580&Session=2023).

* **Telehealth** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

The law revises the state definition of telehealth to **include audio** in the telehealth technology authorization statute. This change does not affect whether health insurers will reimburse health care practitioners for services provided through telephone calls. To read HB 267, click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h0267er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0267&Session=2023).

* **Treatment for Sex Reassignment** (effective upon becoming a law)

Primarily focused on sex reassignment prescriptions or procedures in the physical health realm. Has implications for child custody disputes. Does not address mental health practice directly. Click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s0254er.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0254&Session=2023) to read the SB 254.

* **Operation and Administration of the Baker Act** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

Requires DCF to publish an informational handbook. To read HB 829, click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h0829er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0829&Session=2023).

* **Referral of Patients by Health Care Providers** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

 Revises Florida law to match Medicare changes in definitions of "direct supervision" and "present in the office suite." To read SB 768, click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s0768er.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0768&Session=2023).

* **Suicide Prevention** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

Intended to boost Florida’s suicide prevention programs. To read SB 914, click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s0914er.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0914&Session=2023).

**Legislation vetoed by the Governor:**

* **Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations\*\*\*** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

In a private office, psychologists need to have their license prominently displayed. In other settings, the degree/title should be on a name tag. Also, a psychologist must also provide verbal identification to a new patient by name and identify the profession

Click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s0230er.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0230&Session=2023) to view the text of SB 230.

**Legislation that has been sent to the Governor but not yet acted upon:**

* **Parenting and Time-sharing of Minor Children** (effective date: 7/1/2023)

Creates rebuttable presumption that equal time-sharing is in the best interests of the child. Click [here](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h1301er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1301&Session=2023) to read HB 1301.

**Legislation that did not pass:**

* **Interstate-Mobility and Universal-Recognition Occupational Licensing Act\*\*\***

[HB 1333](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h1333c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1333&Session=2023)/ [SB 1364](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_s1364c3.DOCX&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1364&Session=2023) would have allowed all individuals with out-of-state healthcare or business licenses/certifications to be granted a Florida license/certificate even if other state requirements were weaker than Florida’s. For psychology, it could have granted master’s level psychologists and/or graduates of non-APA accredited programs a Florida license. The House version included an exemption for psychologists, the Senate version did not. The chambers could not come to agreement.

* **Step-Therapy Protocols**

Legislation defines the term “serious mental illness” and requires AHCA to approve drug products for Medicaid recipients for the treatment of serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization. HB 183/ SB 112 was not heard by the full House and Senate.

* **Licensed Counseling for First Responders, Correctional Officers, and Correctional**

**Probation Officers**

The legislation would require employers to pay for mental health counseling for first responders and correctional officers. HB 169/ SB314 did not make it through the committee process.

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*Updated June 7, 2023*