



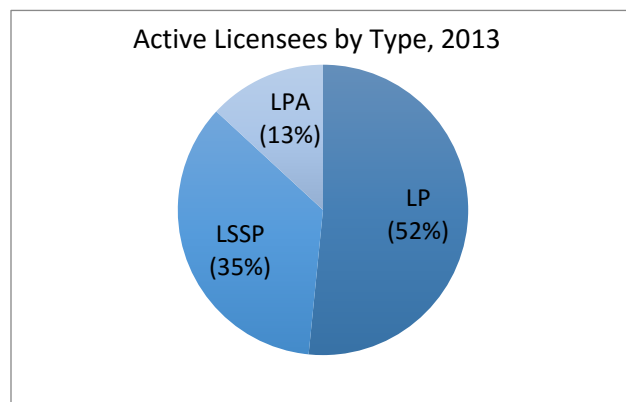
RECOMMENDATION TO SUNSET COMMISSION

2. Proportionate Representation of LSSPs on TSBEP

Background

Per the Psychology Licensing Act (Texas Occupations Code Section 501.051) the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) is comprised of nine members consisting of: four licensed psychologist members who have engaged in independent practice, teaching, or research; two psychological associate members who have been licensed as psychological associates, and three public members. The 2013 legislative session resulted in an amendment that added a subsection to Texas Occupations Code Section 501.051 that reads: *(a-1) One of the members appointed under Subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) must practice as a licensed specialist in school psychology under Section 501.260.*

This act delineates board positions for licensed psychologists (LP) and licensed psychological associates (LPA) but not licensed specialists in school psychology (LSSP) specifically. That is, the amendment indicates that the aforementioned licensed psychologist or licensed psychological associate must concurrently be practicing as an LSSP. Under the current act a professional who *solely* holds the LSSP cannot serve on the TSBEP board.



The chart to the left illustrates the active licensees by type, as of 2013. LSSPs account for 35% of active licensees, as compared to 13% held by LPAs. Of the 16,413 active licensees (per 2013), 649 were an LP/LSSP and 531 LPA/LSSP. These account for 3.95% and 3.24% of all licensees respectively.

Approximately 200 LSSP licenses are granted every year, with numbers continuing to grow. Data collected between 2007 and 2013 show that the number of LSSP licenses issued increased 24%. This compared to 19% growth in

LP issuance and 0.6% decrease in LPA issuance during the same date range.

Applicable Current State/Federal Law

Texas Occupations Code: Chapter 501

How Issue is Addressed in Other States

Of the 48 states where board membership could be located (Iowa and Wisconsin not reporting), five states allocate a specific seat on the board for school psychologists (West Virginia, Virginia, South Carolina, Ohio and New Mexico). A notice of intent issued by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists indicates an LSSP advisory committee to the LSBEP board that includes two LSSP seats.

Benefit to the Community

The Texas Association of School Psychologists believes that every licensure category should be required to be represented on the TSBEP. The change will not increase or decrease the scope of duties of LSSPs. The change will not remove or undermine the authority of other health professionals practicing



psychology in or outside schools. The change will not change the requirements for licensed specialists in school psychology. TASP proposes that the TSBEP reflect proportionate membership of licensees and include those that hold that LSSP as their sole licensure to ensure accurate representation of the school psychology field and interests.

Financial Cost to the State

None

Suggested Statute Language

Sec. 501.051. BOARD MEMBERSHIP.

- (a) The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists consists of nine members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate as follows:
 - (1) three psychologist members who have engaged in independent practice, teaching, or research in psychology for at least five years;
 - (2) two licensed specialists in school psychology who have been licensed as licensed specialists in school psychology under this chapter for at least five years;
 - (3) one psychological associate member who has been licensed as psychological associate under this chapter for at least five years; and
 - (4) three members who represent the public
- (a-1) One of the members appointed under Subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) must practice solely as a licensed specialist in school psychology under Section 501.260.