
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY: SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST DRAFT LEGISLATION
DATE: 1/21/2002
CC: PROSPERE
FILE

You'll remember during the 2001 session there was some concern over language in SB 2271, which you signed. Specifically, the bill stated

Individuals certified by the Mississippi State Department of Education may use appropriate titles such as "school psychologist," "certified school psychologist," "educational psychologist" or "psychometrist" only when employed by and practicing in school or educational settings.

The question arose as to whether the term "employed by" would include both employees and other individuals under contract to perform such services. The State Board of Psychology submitted a letter to Bill Bunch stating that it was not the intent of the Board to interfere with, or prohibit, the ability of school districts to acquire school psychological services on a contractual basis. The Board committed to having a bill introduced this session that would amend the above wording to include "those individuals performing contractual services." The Board requested an emergency review of the language by the AG's Office. Frank Spencer provided a letter stating that, when an official AG's was requested, it would be the opinion that individuals certified by the State Department of Education, both employees and those performing contractual services to school districts, may use such titles in connection with their practice in such districts.

Dr. Mardi Allen, President-Elect of the State Board of Psychology, informed me last week that the Board is ready to act on its commitment to introduce clarifying language. According to Dr. Allen, Steve Williams of MDE has stated that the department is no longer concerned that the adopted language would exclude contractual employees. However, Chairman Moody is having a bill drafted on behalf of the Board. Dr. Allen wanted me to make you aware of this legislation (we do not have a copy at this time) to give you the opportunity to express any concerns you might have of such legislation. May I tell Dr. Allen to proceed with having such language introduced?

Introduce language _____ No need to introduce _____