Overview

This bill modifies provisions of the Psychology Practice Act related to definitions, reciprocity, variances from supervision requirements for licensed psychological practitioners, grounds for disciplinary action, penalties, immunity from civil and criminal penalties, and title protection.

Section

1 **Client.** Amends § 148.89, subd. 2a. Amends the definition of "client" in the Psychology Practice Act by specifying that client also includes an individual's legally authorized representative such as a parent or guardian. Also makes technical changes.

2 **Licensee.** Amends § 148.89, subd. 4. Makes a technical change to the definition of "licensee" in the Psychology Practice Act.

3 **Provider.** Adds subd. 4a to § 148.89. Adds a definition of "provider" in the Psychology Practice Act.

4 **Practice of psychology.** Amends § 148.89, subd. 5. Modifies the definition of "practice of psychology" to include psychoeducational supervision.

5 **Reciprocity.** Amends § 148.915. Strikes language allowing the board to grant licensure as a licensed psychologist to a person who has been licensed in another jurisdiction at the doctoral level to practice psychology for at least 15 years but who has completed less than two years of supervised post-degree employment (this language is no longer needed).

6 **Variance from supervision requirements.** Amends § 148.925, subd. 7. Modifies requirements for variances from the supervision requirements for licensed psychological practitioners by:

   establishing detailed requirements for a plan for supervision that a practitioner who has completed two full years of supervised, post-master's degree employment must submit to the board; and

   requiring the board to grant a variance to a licensed psychological practitioner who has received a variance under paragraph (b) and who has complete two additional years of
supervised, post-master's degree employment, provided the practitioner presents evidence of (1) endorsement of specific areas of competency by the licensed psychologist who supervised the practitioner, (2) employment by a hospital or by a nonprofit mental health center, nonprofit mental health clinic, or social services agency providing services as part of a mental health service plan, (3) the employer's acceptance of clinical responsibility, and (4) a plan for supervision.

7 **Grounds for disciplinary action; forms of disciplinary action.** Amends § 148.941, subd. 2. Makes changes to a clause making fee splitting a ground for disciplinary action, including specifying that charging a general membership fee for participation in a referral service is not prohibited, provided that the licensee or applicant discloses the nature of the referral arrangement in advance; and making changes to language listing examples of fee splitting.

8 **Violation.** Amends § 148.941, subd. 6. Makes it a gross misdemeanor, rather than a misdemeanor as in current law, to engage in the unlicensed practice of psychology or to misrepresent oneself as a psychologist or psychological practitioner.

9 **Immunity.** Adds § 148.952. Extends immunity from civil liability and criminal prosecution to any person or entity that, in good faith, reports violations of the Psychology Practice Act to the board or that cooperates with the board in investigations of violations. Also extends immunity to consultants, advisors, and experts retained by the board to investigate violations and present cases of violations.

10 **Requirements for representation to the public.** Amends § 148.96, subd. 3. Specifies that a psychologically trained individual employed by an accredited educational institution can use the title designated by the institution only if that title does not indicate that the individual is credentialed by the board of psychology.