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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 26, 2002

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
LIQUOR CONTROL
FIREFIGHTERS' CAUCUS,
COCHAIRMAN EMERITUS

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harrisstown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman McGinley:

I am writing to inform you that the House Professional Licensure Committee held a meeting on March 26, 2002.

The Committee voted to approve Regulation 16A-639, State Board of Psychology.

In addition, the Committee voted to take no formal action on Regulation 16A-445, State Board of Podiatry, until final form regulations are promulgated. However, the Committee notes that although the Board has not increased renewal fees since December of 1992, the proposed increase would more than double the current fee. The Committee questions why the need for an increase was not recognized or anticipated by the Board at an earlier time so that needed increases could be phased in rather than resorting to one dramatic increase. The Committee also notes that by the fiscal year 2005-2006, the Board's projected expenditures will be \$53,000 more than the fiscal year 2000-2001. The Committee requests an explanation of the estimated expenditures of the Board that would necessitate such a sharp increase.

Please feel free to contact my office if any questions should arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mario J. Civera".

Mario J. Civera, Chairman
House Professional Licensure Committee

MJC/sms
Enclosures

cc: Alex M. Siegel, J.D., Ph.D., Chairman
State Board of Psychology
Jeffrey S. Gerland, D.P.M., Chairman
State Board of Podiatry
The Honorable C. Michael Weaver
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

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REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Regulation 16A-639

State Board of Psychology

PROPOSAL: Regulation 16A-639 amends 49 PA Code, Chapter 41, regulations of the State Board of Psychology. The amendment clarifies the manner in which continuing education hours in excess of the minimum requirement may be carried over to the next biennial period.

Regulation 16A-639 is Final Rulemaking which was delivered to the Professional Licensure Committee on March 12, 2002. The Professional Licensure Committee has until April 1, 2002, to approve or disapprove the regulation.

ANALYSIS: The proposal would amend Section 41.59(b), which sets forth the continuing education requirement for biennial licensure renewal. Psychologists are required to complete 30 contact hours of continuing education per biennium, at least three hours of which must be in ethical issues. Up to 10 contact hours in excess of the required 30 hours may be carried over from one biennium to the next. The proposal clarifies that only excess hours from the immediately preceding biennium may be carried over to the next biennium. Additionally, the proposal clarifies that excess hours in ethical issues may not be used to satisfy the ethics requirement for the succeeding biennium, but may be credited toward the total requirement.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Professional Licensure Committee approve the regulation.

House of Representatives
Professional Licensure Committee
March 19, 2002