

House Bill 1163

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Watson of the 163rd, Purcell of the 159th, and Amerson of the 9th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-39-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions relative to psychologists, so as to clarify the practice of psychology; to provide
3 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 43-39-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
7 relative to psychologists, is amended by revising paragraph (3) as follows:

8 "(3) 'To practice psychology' means to render or offer to render to individuals, groups,
9 organizations, or the public for a fee or any remuneration, monetary or otherwise, any
10 service involving the application of recognized principles, methods, and procedures of the
11 science and profession of psychology, such as, but not limited to, diagnosing and treating
12 mental and nervous disorders and illnesses, rendering opinions concerning diagnoses of
13 mental disorders, including organic brain disorders and brain damage, engaging in
14 neuropsychology, engaging in psychotherapy, interviewing, administering, and interpreting
15 tests of mental abilities, aptitudes, interests, and personality characteristics for such
16 purposes as psychological classification or evaluation, or for education or vocational
17 placement, or for such purposes as psychological counseling, guidance, or readjustment.
18 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as permitting the administration or
19 prescription of drugs or the consultation with or recommendation to a patient regarding
20 available medical treatment options or the initiation, dosage adjustment, or cessation of
21 specific medications or in any way infringing upon the practice of medicine as defined in
22 the laws of this state."

23 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.