

ABBOZZ TA' LIĠI msejjaħ

Att biex jipprovdi dwar ir-regolamentazzjoni tal-professjoni tal-psikoloġija u biex jipprovdi għal hwejjeġ konessi magħha jew li huma anċillari għaliha.

Il-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej:-

1. (1) It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att huwa Att ta' l-2004 Titolu fil-qosor u bidu fis-seħh. dwar il-Professjoni tal-Psikoloġija.

(2) Dan l-Att għandu jibda jseħħ f'dik id-data li l-Ministru responsabbli għall-politika soċjali jista' jstabbilixxi b'avviż fil-Gazzetta u jistgħu jiġu hekk stabbiliti dati differenti għal disposizzjonijiet differenti jew għal għanijiet differenti ta' dan l-Att.

2. F'dan l-Att, kemm-il darba r-rabta tal-kliem ma tkunx Tifsir. tehtieġ xort'ohra:

“il-Bord” tfisser il-Bord dwar il-Professjoni tal-Psikoloġija f'Malta stabbilit bl-artikolu 4 ta' dan l-Att;

“jipprattika” dwar il-professjoni tal-psikoloġija tinkludi:-

(a) li tittiehed jew li tiġi segwita l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija; u

(b) l-użu, waqt li l-professjoni tkun b'hekk qed tiġi segwita, tat-titlu professjonali "Psikologu Registrat" jew ta' l-ittri li jindikaw dak it-titlu "RPsy";

"il-Ministru" tfisser il-Ministru responsabbli għall-politika soċjali;

"ordnat" tfisser preskritt b'regolamenti magħmula mill-Ministru taht dan l-Att;

"perjodu ta' adattament" tfisser perjodu li matulu persuna tista' teżerċita l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'Malta taht is-sorveljanza ta' psikologu registrat, liema perjodu jista' jinkludi l-provdiment ta' dak it-tahrig addizzjonali lil dik il-persuna, kif jista' jkun meħtieġ mill-Bord, u fi tmiem dak il-perjodu għandu jsir eżami;

"psikoloġija" tfisser is-servizz professjonali li jingħata għad-dijanżosi, prevenzjoni, rimedju jew ameljorament ta' diffikultajiet fil-moħħ, l-emozzjonijiet, l-imġieba u r-relazzjonijiet tal-bniedem sabiex tiġi evalwata jew imtejba l-azzjoni tal-bniedem u tiġi mtejba s-sahha mentali jew fiżika;

"psikologu registrat" jew "psikologu" tfisser persuna li tkun registrata fir-registru uffiċjali ta' psikoloġi miżmum mill-Bord u li tkun ingħatat *warrant* li tipprattika l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija, skond l-artikolu 6 ta' dan l-Att;

"test ta' hila" tfisser test li l-għan tiegħu jkun li jivvaluta l-hila ta' persuna biex issegwi l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'Malta, skond ma jkun meħtieġ mill-Bord skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att;

"*warrant*" tfisser *warrant* mahrug taht l-artikolu 6 ta' dan l-Att.

Min ikollu *warrant* biss jista' jeżerċita l-professjoni.

3. (1) Hadd ma jista' juri ruhu li jkun psikologu professjonali jew li jwettaq il-professjoni ta' psikoloġija għal rimunerazzjoni jew juri ruhu li jkun professjonalment kwalifikat biex hekk jagħmel jew jassumi t-titlu jew l-ittri li jindikaw it-titlu ta' psikologu registrat kemm-il darba ma jkunx id-detentur ta' *warrant* mahrug taht dan l-Att.

(2) Sakemm ma jkunx hekk speċifikat fil-*warrant*, il-*warrant* mahrug taht is-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu ma jintitolax lid-detentur tiegħu li jeżerċita l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'dawk l-oqsma ta' psikoloġija speċjalizzati li jkunu jehtieġu kwalifiki addizzjonali u, jew taħrig, skond ma jkunu ordnati mill-Ministru.

(3) Persuna ma tikkwalifikax għal *warrant* kemm-il darba dik il-persuna -

(a) ma tkunx ċittadin ta' Malta, jew xort' ohra jkollha permess biex taħdem f'Malta taht xi liġi; u

(b) ma tkunx ta' kondotta tajba; u

(ċ) ma tkunx kisbet Grad fil-livell ta' *Masters* fil-Psikoloġija mill-Università ta' Malta jew xi kwalifika professjonali ohra li l-Bord jidhirlu li tkun ekwivalenti; u

(d) ma tissodisfax lill-Bord li jkollha esperjenza adegwata fil-prattika tal-professjoni tal-psikoloġija għal żmien aggregat ta' mill-anqas sentejn fuq bażi *full-time* jew l-ekwivalenti ta' dak iż-żmien fuq bażi *part-time* wara li tkun spiċċat dak il-grad jew kwalifika professjonali ohra taht is-sorveljanza ta' psikologu reġistrat.

(4) Il-Ministru jista' jordna, minflok xi wahda mill-htigiet minimi stabbiliti taht id-disposizzjonijiet ta' qabel ta' dan l-artikolu, htigiet minimi ohra skond xi trattat jew ftehim internazzjonali jew multinazzjonali li Malta tkun parti fih jew skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' xi leġislazzjoni li tingieb fis-seħh bis-sahha ta' xi trattat jew ftehim bhal dawk.

(5) Minghajr preġudizzju għal xi disposizzjoni magħmula bl-Att dwar ir-Rikonoxximent Reċiproku ta' Kwalifiki jew tahtu, meta t-tul tal-kors li jkun iwassal għall-kwalifika professjonali li jkollu l-applikant ikun anqas mit-tul tal-kors li jwassal għal Grad mogħti mill-Università ta' Malta jew meta l-esperjenza msemmija fil-paragrafu (d) tas-subartikolu (3) ta' dan l-artikolu tkun ta' anqas minn sentejn, il-Bord jista' jehtieġ lill-applikant li jagħmel dak il-perjodu ta' adattament li ma jkunx itwal mid-doppju tad-differenza, skond ma jista' jiġi speċifikat mill-Bord. Il-Bord jista' wkoll jgħaddi lill-applikant minn test ta' hila.

4. (1) Ghandu jkun hemm Bord li jkun maghruf bhala l-Bord dwar il-Professjoni tal-Psikoloġija f'Malta li jkun magħmul minn seba' membri kif ġej:-

(a) erba' membri mahtura mill-Ministru wara konsultazzjoni ma' kull assoċjazzjoni, jekk ikun hemm, reġistrata mal-Bord skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, li minnhom:

(i) wiehed ikun *Chairperson*, li jkollu livell maghruf fil-professjoni tal-psikoloġija u li jkollu mill-inqas sitt snin esperjenza fil-prattika tal-psikoloġija;

(ii) żewġ psikoloġi li jeżerċitaw il-professjoni tal-psikoloġija, wiehed minnhom fis-settur pubbliku; u

(iii) persuna li tkun avukat b'esperjenza ta' mhux anqas minn hames snin.

(b) (i) żewġ membri nominati minn dawk l-assoċjazzjonijiet reġistrati mal-Bord, jekk ikun hemm, skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u mahtura mill-Ministru;

(ii) psikologu wiehed nominat minn, u minn fost, l-istaff akkademiku permanenti responsabbli għall-edukazzjoni u t-taħrig tal-psikoloġija fl-Università ta' Malta:

Iżda dwar l-ewwel hatriet, "psikologu" tfisser kull persuna li hi kwalifikata li tkun reġistrata taht dan l-Att:

Iżda ukoll għall-fini tal-paragrafi (a) u (b) ta' dan is-subartikolu, l-assoċjazzjonijiet li għandhom jiġu konsultati jew li għandhom jagħmlu n-nomini dwar l-ewwel hatra għandhom ikunu dawk l-assoċjazzjonijiet li għandhom il-kwalifiki biex ikunu eventwalment reġistrati taht dan l-Att.

(2) In-nomini magħmula skond is-subparagrafu (i) u (ii) ta' paragrafu (b) ta' dan l-artikolu għandhom, għall-ewwel darba, isiru fi żmien ġimagħtejn minn talba bil-miktub magħmula għal hekk mill-Ministru, u għal kull nomina sussegwenti, fi żmien xahar minn meta tinholq xi vakanza jew meta l-vakanza tirrizulta wara li jiskadi iż-żmien tal-kariga, dik in-nomina għandha ssir fi żmien xahar qabel dik l-iskandenza. Fin-nuqqas ta' nomina bhal dik, il-Ministru għandu jagħmel il-hatra minn fost psikoloġi.

(3) Il-membri tal-Bord ghandhom jibqghu fil-kariga ghal sentejn:

Izda ż-żmien tal-kariga ta' l-ewwel membri tal-Bord mahtura taht is-sub-paragrafi (i), (ii) u (iii) tal-paragrafu (a) tas-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu, ghandu jkun ta' tliet snin, u t-tieni hatra u kull hatra sussegwenti ma' l-gheluq taż-żmien inizjali ż-żmien ghandhom ikunu ghal sentejn.

(4) Il-membri tal-Bord, wara li jispiċċa ż-żmien tal-hatra taghhom, ikunu elegibbli biex jergghu jinhatru, izda ma jistghux iservu l-Bord ghal iktar minn tliet perjodi konsekuttivi.

(5) Fil-każ li xi membru tal-Bord ibattal il-kariga tieghu qabel ma jispiċċa ż-żmien tal-hatra, il-persuna mahtura minfloku ghandha tinhatar ghaż-żmien li jifdal tal-hatra oriġinali.

(6) L-ghadd ta' membri prezenti mehtieg biex ikun hemm *quorum* ikun ta' erbgha, imma sakemm ikun hemm *quorum*, il-Bord jista' jaġixxi minkejja kull vakanza fost il-membri tieghu.

(7) Il-Ministru ghandu wkoll jappunta ufficjal pubbliku biex jaghmilha ta' segretarju tal-Bord, imma s-segetarju ma jkollux vot.

(8) Iċ-*Chairperson* tal-Bord ikollu kemm vot oriġinali u kemm, fil-każ ta' voti ndaq, vot deciziv.

(9) Salv dak li ssemma hawn qabel u skond ma jista' jiġi ordnat il-Bord jista' jaghmel ir-regoli tieghu nnifsu u xort'ohra jirregola l-proċeduri tieghu nnifsu.

(10) Il-laqgħat tal-Bord ghandhom jiġu msejha miċ-*Chairperson* u l-Bord ghandu jiltaqa' kemm jista' jkun ta' spiss skond kif mehtieg, imma mill-anqas darba kull tliet xhur.

(11) Fit-twettiq tal-funzjonijiet tieghu taht dan l-Att, il-Bord jista' jikkonsulta ruħu ma' daww il-persuni li jidhrulu xierqa. Għal dak l-ghan, il-Bord, jista' jistieden lil kull persuna bhal daww biex tattendi għal-laqgħat tal-Bord.

(12) Il-Bord ghandu jzomm kopja vera u korettta tal-proċedimenti tieghu kollha u l-Bord ghandu jagħti lill-Ministru kull informazzjoni mitluba minnu.

5. (1) Minghajr preġudizzju għas-setgħat u għall-funzjonijiet l-oħra tiegħu, l-iskop tal-Bord huwa li jirregola l-prattika u l-eligibilità biex tkun prattikata il-professjoni tal-psikoloġija f'Malta, u partikolarment biex-

(a) jstabilixxi u, meta jkun meħtieġ, jivvaluta *standards* ta' psikoloġija eżistenti u jiżviluppa *standards* godda ta' żvilupp professjonali kontinwu fil-psikoloġija kif ukoll *standards* oħra, u jirrakkomanda lill-Ministru, dwar l-edukazzjoni inizjali u kontinwa tal-psikoloġija, il-profiċjenza, esperjenza u kwalifiki oħra meħtieġa biex wiehed ikollu *warrant* taht dan l-Att;

(b) jikkonsidra, jipproċessa u jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet lill-Ministru dwar applikazzjonijiet għal ekwivalenza u l-għarfien ta' kwalifiki fil-psikoloġija;

(ċ) jeżamina applikazzjonijiet għal *warrant* biex wiehed jipprattika l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'Malta u jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet lill-Ministru dwar l-ghoti jew ir-rifjut ta' *warrants*;

(d) iżomm reġistru uffiċjali tal-psikoloġi reġistrati kollha;

(e) iżomm reġistru uffiċjali tas-soċjetajiet kollha tal-psikoloġi;

(f) iżomm dak it-tagħrif li jista' jkun meħtieġ dwar assoċjazzjonijiet li jirrapprezentaw psikoloġi f'Malta, li jkunu reġistrati taht id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att;

(g) jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet lill-Ministru dwar il-kodiċi ta' etika li għandu jkun ordnat għall-imġieba professjonali ta' psikoloġi; dawk ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet għandhom isiru wara konsultazzjoni ma' l-assoċjazzjonijiet reġistrati taht id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att;

(h) jinvestiga kull allegazzjoni ta' mġieba professjonali hażina, negliġenza qawwija jew inkompetenza minn xi psikologu;

(i) jagħti pariri, jew jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet, jew xort'oħra jagħti l-fehmiet tiegħu lill-Ministru dwar kull haġa li dwarha l-Ministru għandu jikkonsulta mal-Bord, jew li dwarha l-Bord għandu jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet lill-Ministru jew li fuqha l-Bord ikun mitlub mill-Ministru biex jagħti l-fehma jew jagħmel ir-rakkomandazzjoni tiegħu;

(j) jaqdi dawk il-funzjonijiet l-oħra li jistgħu joriġinaw minn dan l-Att jew minn kull liġi oħra, jew jista' jkun lilu assenjat mill-Ministru.

(2) Il-Bord għandu, sa mhux aktar tard minn tliet xhur wara l-aħhar ta' kull sena, jippubblika fil-Gazetta lista ta' persuni li fil-31 ta' Diċembru ta' dik is-sena, kienu reġistrati fir-reġistru uffiċjali tal-psikoloġi, u lista tas-soċjetajiet reġistrati fir-reġistru uffiċjali ta' soċjetajiet tal-psikoloġi.

(3) Il-Bord għandu jagħmel u jippubblika rapport annwali dwar l-attivitajiet tiegħu generali.

6. (1) Kull persuna li tkun trid tikseb *warrant* biex tipprattika l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'Malta għandha tippreżenta applikazzjoni quddiem il-Bord. *Warrants.*

(2) Jekk il-Bord ikun sodisfatt li l-applikant jissodisfa l-htigiet minimi stabbiliti taht dan l-Att, dan għandu jagħmel rakkomandazzjoni lill-Ministru għall-hruġ ta' *warrant*.

(3) Meta, wara l-perjodu ta' adattament skond kif ikun mehtieg, il-Bord ikun sodisfatt li l-applikant ikun temm b'suċċess it-tahriġ tiegħu, il-Bord għandu jagħmel rakkomandazzjoni lill-Ministru għall-hruġ ta' *warrant*.

(4) Għall-fini li jiġi stabbilit jekk applikant ikunx temm b'suċċess it-tahriġ tiegħu kif hemm qabel imsemmi, il-Bord jista' jgħaddi lill-applikant minn test ta' hila taht id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att.

(5) *Warrant* mahruġ mill-Ministru taht dan l-Att jista' jkun mahruġ bla ħsara għal dawk il-limitazzjonijiet jew kondizzjonijiet skond ma l-Bord jista' jirrakkomanda f'xi każ partikolari. Dak il-*warrant* għandu wkoll jinkludi l-qasam ta' psikoloġija speċjalizzata li fih ikun jista' jeżerċita d-detentur ta' *warrant* u jista' jinkludi dawk il-kundizzjonijiet speċjali għal dawk il-perjodi speċifiċi skond ma l-Bord jista' jirrakkomanda skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u regolamenti magħmulin tahtu.

(6) Meta applikazzjoni tkun qed tiġi ikkunsidrata minn xi persuna jew minn xi detentur ta' *warrant* għall-eżerċizzju ta' professjoni f'qasam speċjalizzat tal-psikoloġija, il-Bord jista' jordna li dik il-persuna għandha tagħmel u ttemm b'suċċess, b'żieda mas-sottomissjoni ta' dawk il-kwalifiki li jistgħu jkunu preskritti, dak it-tahriġ jew perjodu ta' adattament skond ma jkun indikat mill-Bord.

(7) *Warrant* mahruġ taht dan l-Att ghandu jkompli fis-sehh kemm-il darba d-detentur tal-*warrant* ma jgħibx prova ghas-sodisfazzjon tal-Bord li jkun għamel dak il-programm jew dawk il-programmi ta' żvilupp professjonali kontinwat skond ma jista' jkun preskritt:

Iżda meta d-detentur ta' *warrant* jonqos li jgħib prova ghas-sodisfazzjon tal-Bord li jkun għamel dak il-programm jew dawk il-programmi ta' żvilupp professjonali kontinwat, il-*warrant* tad-detentur ta' *warrant* għandu jitqies li jkun sospiż sakemm id-detentur ta' *warrant* iġib prova ghas-sodisfazzjon tal-Bord li jkun qed jissodisfa l-htigiet li jista' jiġi ordnat jagħmel.

Il-Bord jikkunsidra applikazzjoni għal *warrant*.

7. Il-Bord għandu jikkunsidra u jagħmel ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħu dwar applikazzjoni għal *warrant* għall-eżerċizzju tal-professjoni ta' psikoloġija malajr kemm jista' jkun raġonevolment Prattikkabli, imma f'ebda każ aktar tard minn erba' xhur minn meta jirċievi l-applikazzjoni flimkien ma' l-informazzjoni u d-dokumentazzjoni kollha rilevanti b'sostenn ta' l-applikazzjoni. Meta jagħmel ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħu lill-Ministru, il-Bord għandu fl-istess hin javża lill-applikant bir-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħu, flimkien mal-motivazzjonijiet li fuqhom dawn kienu bbażati.

Telfien ta' *warrant*.

8. (1) Ebda persuna ma tikkwalifika li tikseb jew ma għandha iżomm *warrant* skond dan l-Att jekk dik il-persuna tkun insabet hatja minn qorti kompetenti ta' xi delitt li għalih hemm piena ta' iktar minn sena prigunerija.

(2) Meta persuna titlef il-*warrant* wara li tkun insabet hatja skond ma hemm fis-subartikolu ta' qabel dan, għandu jingħata avviż ta' dak it-telfien mill-Ministru fil-Gazzetta u dan it-tagħrif jitwassal mill-Bord lill-persuna skwalifikata kemm il-darba l-persuna ma tkunx għet interdetta bis-sentenza nnifisha.

(3) Il-Ministru jista', f'kull waqt, fuq ir-rakkomandazzjoni tal-Bord, jerga' jagħti lura l-*warrant* lil persuna li tkun tilfitu jew jagħti l-*warrant* lil persuna li tkun skwalifikata skond is-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu.

Il-Bord jista' jagħmel inkjesti.

9. (1) Il-Bord għandu jagħmel inkjesta dwar kull allegazzjoni ta' mġieba professjonali hażina, negligenza jew inkompetenza dwar xi psikologu.

(2) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu, il-frazzjoni "mġieba professjonali hażina", "negligenza", jew "inkompetenza", jinkludu dawn li ġejjin:-

- (a) li jinkiseb *warrant* b' mod qarrieqi jew frawdolenti;
- (b) il-ksur tal-Kodiċi ta' l-Etika stabbilit taht dan l-Att;
- (c) in-nuqqas ta' tharis tar-regolamenti dwar *standards* jew prattika professjonali;
- (d) nuqqas ta' tharis ta' xi kundizzjoni li tinsab fil-*warrant* mahruġ taht dan l-Att;
- (e) l-użu ta' intervenzjonijiet terapewtiċi jew il-prensjoni ta' kompetenza professjonali li dwarha l-persuna ma tkunx kwalifikata jew il-persuna inkwistjoni ma tkunx awtorizzata li tipprattika skond il-*warrant* li jkollha;
- (f) imġieba li tista' tkun ta' hsara għall-professjoni tal-psikoloġija ;
- (g) wiri ta' nuqqas ta' tagħrif, hila jew ġudizzju fil-prattika tal-professjoni tal-psikoloġija jew fit-twertiq ta' dmir jew obligazzjoni fil-prattika ta' psikoloġija.

(3) Kull psikologu li jkun is-sugġett ta' xi inkjesta li ssir mill-Bord għandu jingħata kull opportunità biex jagħmel id-difiza tiegħu u jġib il-provi favur tiegħu u għal dak l-għan jista' jkun assistit minn avukat jew minn xi persuna oħra li jagħzel hu.

(4) Meta jiffinalizza l-inkjesta l-Bord għandu -

- (a) jekk ir-riżultanzi jkunu favur il-psikologu, itemm il-każ; jew
- (b) jekk isib lill-psikologu hati ta' mġieba professjonali hażina, negliġenza jew inkompetenza, jagħmel rapport dwar ir-riżultanzi u jissottomettih lill-Ministru flimkien mar-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħu għall-impożizzjoni ta' xi wahda mill-penalitajiet li ġejjen:-
 - (i) is-sospensjoni jew it-thassir tal-*warrant* taht dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li jistgħu jiġu rakkomandati;
 - (ii) is-sospensjoni jew it-thassir tar-registrazzjoni ta' soċjetà ta' psikoloġi;
 - (iii) l-impożizzjoni ta' xi kondizzjonijiet li għandhom ikunu marbuta ma' *warrant*;

(iv) ċanfira;

(v) hlas li jkopri l-ispejjeż ta' l-inkjesta;

(vi) ordni li xi drittijiet li jintalbu għal servizzi mogħtija ma jithallsux, jitnaqqsu jew jithallsu lura; jew

(vii) kull penali oħra li tista' tiġi ordnata.

(5) Mat-thassir tal-*warrant* ta' psikologu l-Bord għandu jaqta' isem dik il-persuna minn fuq ir-registru uffiċjali ta' psikologi.

Kap. 273.

(6) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu, il-membri tal-Bord ikollhom is-setgħat li huma jew li jistgħu jingħataw taħt l-Att dwar l-Inkjesti, u għandhom imexxu l-inkjesta tagħhom kif provdut fl-istess Att.

Appelli.

10. (1) Meta l-Ministru jkun iddeċieda, skond ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-Bord, li *warrant* ta' persuna għandu jkun sospiż jew imħassar jew li l-*warrant* ikun soġġett għal xi kondizzjonijiet addizzjonali, dik il-persuna tista', fi żmien wiehed u għoxrin jum mill-avviż li jingħata lill-Ministru, tappella lill-Qorti ta' l-Appell fil-gurisdizzjoni inferjuri tagħha.

(2) Il-Ministru responsabbli għall-ġustizzja jista' jagħmel regolamenti li jippreskrivu d-drittijiet li għandhom jithallsu fir-Registru tal-Qorti dwar appelli magħmula taħt dan l-artikolu:

Izda sakemm jigu preskritti dawk id-drittijiet mill-Ministru responsabbli għall-ġustizzja, id-drittijiet li għandhom jithallsu għal appelli quddiem dik il-Qorti għandhom ikunu d-drittijiet applikabbli għall-Qorti tal-Maġistrati (Malta).

(3) Il-Bord imwaqqaf bis-saħħa ta' l-artikolu 29 tal-Kodiċi tal-Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili għandu jagħmel regolamenti li jstabilixxu l-forma ta' dawk l-appelli u hwejjeġ li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma' dan.

Il-Ministru jista' jirrestitwixxi l-*warrant*.

11. Il-Ministru jista', fuq ir-rakkomandazzjoni tal-Bord, u wara li ssir applikazzjoni għaldaqstant, iwarrab dik is-sospensjoni jew dak it-thassir, jekk l-applikant jissodisfa dawk il-htigiet skond ma jistgħu jigu preskritti. Meta l-*warrant* tal-psikologu jkun ġie restitwit, dak il- psikologu għandu jiġi registrat mill-ġdid fir-registru uffiċjali.

12. (1) Assoċjazzjoni ta' psikoloġi tista' tagħmel applikazzjoni lill-Bord biex tkun registrata bħala assoċjazzjoni ta' psikoloġi għall-finijiet ta' dan l-Att. Assoċjazzjoni ta' psikoloġi.

(2) Assoċjazzjoni tkun kwalifikata biex tkun registrata taħt dan l-artikolu jekk iġġib prova lill-Bord li jkollha mill-inqas għaxar psikoloġi reġistrati li jkunu membri u li tkun tikkonforma ruħha ma' daww il-kondizzjonijiet l-oħra li jistgħu jiġu ordnati. Assoċjazzjoni għandha, flimkien mal-applikazzjoni, tippreżenta lista ta' membri u kull tagħrif iehor li l-Bord jista' jehtieg biex jipproċessa l-applikazzjoni.

(3) Il-Bord ikollu s-setgħa li jehtieg minghand assoċjazzjoni li tkun registrata taħt dan l-artikolu biex tipproduċi daww ir-records u tagħrif dwar l-assoċjazzjoni u l-membri tagħha skond ma l-Bord jista' raġonevolment jehtieg minn żmien għal żmien.

13. (1) Żewġ detenturi ta' *warrant* jew iktar jistgħu jiffurmaw soċjetà ċivili, f'dan l-Att msejja "soċjetà ta' psikoloġi", li jkollha bħala skop waħdieni l-prattika tal-professjoni ta' psikoloġija u daww is-setgħat li huma meħtieġa biex jinkisbu l-għanijiet tas-soċjetà. Soċjetajiet ta' psikoloġi.

(2) Hadd, barra minn detentur ta' *warrant*, ma jista' jkun soċju f'soċjetà ta' psikoloġi.

(3) Kull soċjetà bħal dik għandha, meta tkun iffurmata kif imiss skond il-liġi u mal-hlas tad-dritt ordnat, tkun registrata mal-Bord u hekk kif tiġi reġistrata s-soċji għandhom, sakemm is-soċjetà tibqa' hekk reġistrata, ikunu awtorizzati jaġixxu f'isem u għas-soċjetà li jkollha l-jedd li tuża l-isem "Psikoloġi" bħala parti minn isimha.

(4) Kull soċjetà bħal dik għandha tagħti lill-Bord dak it-tagħrif li jkun b'mod raġonevolment meħtieġ mill-Bord jew skond ma jista' jiġi ordnat, u għandha tagħti avviż lill-Bord dwar kull tibdil rilevanti f'xi tagħrif mogħti qabel lill-Bord fi żmien hmistax-il jum wara d-data li fiha jkun sar it-tibdil.

14. (1) Minkejja d-disposizzjonijiet ta' kull liġi oħra jew ta' kull ftehim iehor kuntrarju, id-disposizzjonijiet li ġejjin għandhom japplikaw għal soċjetà ta' psikoloġi taħt dan l-Att:- Kondizzjonijiet li japplikaw għal soċjetà.

(a) is-soċji jkunu responsabbli *in solidum* għal kull għemil u nuqqas ta' kull wiehed minnhom fil-qadi tad-dmirijiet

professionali tagħhom, ghaż-żamma ta' *standards* u mgieba professjonali u b'mod ġenerali fit-tweqqi ta' l-obbligazzjonijiet tagħhom taht dan l-Att jew taht kull liġi oħra applikabbli, u għandhom ikunu wkoll responsabbli *in solidum* għal kull telf jew danni li jirriżultaw minn dan;

(b) kull għemil jew haġa li tista' ssir minn detentur ta' *warrant* tista' ssir minn xi wiehed jew iżjed mis-soċji f'isem is-soċjetà; u kull għemil jew haġa li ssir f'isem is-soċjetà għandha ssir minn xi wiehed jew iżjed mis-soċji;

(ċ) ir-responsabbilitajiet u l-obbligazzjonijiet għal kull haġa li tkun saret jew li tkun naqset milli ssir matul il-perjodu li fih il-persuna kienet soċju f'soċjetà ta' psikoloġi ma għandhomx jieqfu, dwar dik il-persuna, minhabba li din tkun irtirat, mietet jew għal xi raguni oħra li minhabba fiha ma tibqax aktar soċju.

(2) Minkejja d-disposizzjonijiet ta' qabel ta' dan l-artikolu, ebda soċju ma għandu jeżerċita l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'qasam speċjalizzat jekk mhux awtorizzat bis-saħħa tal-*warrant* tiegħu, kemm-il darba ma jagħmilx dan ix-xogħol taht is-superviżjoni ta' xi soċju li jkollu *warrant* li jawtorizzah jeżerċita l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija f'dak il-qasam speċjalizzat.

Applikabilità ta' artikoli għal soċjetajiet.

15. Id-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-artikoli 9, 10 u 11 ta' dan l-Att għandhom japplikaw għal soċjetajiet ta' psikoloġi *mutatis mutandis* bħalma dawn japplikaw għal psikoloġi.

Rejati u multi.

16. (1) Kull persuna li, sabiex tikseb *warrant* jew reġistrazzjoni ta' soċjetà ta' psikoloġi taht id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, tagħti xi tagħrif hażin jew xort'oħra taġixxi b'mod qarrieqi jew bi frodi tkun hatja ta' reat u tista', meta tinsab hatja, tehel multa ta' mhux iżjed minn elf lira Maltija jew priġunerija għal mhux iżjed minn tnax-il xahar jew dik il-multa u priġunerija flimkien.

(2) Kull persuna li tinsab hatja ta' xi reat iehor taht dan l-Att tehel, meta tinsab hatja, multa ta' mhux iżjed minn hames mitt lira Maltija, jew priġunerija għal żmien tliet xhur, jew dik il-multa u priġunerija flimkien u fil-każ ta' reat kontinwat, multa ta' hames liri Maltin għal kull jum li matulu jkompli ir-reat, sa massimu ta' elfejn lira Maltija.

(3) Kull persuna li, meta ma tkunx id-detentur ta' *warrant* mahrug taht dan l-Att, teżerċita l-professjoni ta' psikoloġija jew tassumi l-isem ta', jew turi lilha nnifisha bħala li hi, psikologu jew

taghmel xi xoghol ta' psikologija bi ksur tad-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, tkun hatja ta' reat kontra dan l-artikolu.

(4) Kull persuna li tuza l-kliem "Psikologi" dwar soċjetà ta' psikologi meta dik is-soċjetà ma tkunx registrata skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, jew b'xi mod li jkun taghmel użu minn xi isem billi timplika b'mod qarrieqi l-eżistenza ta' soċjetà ta' psikologi li jkunu registrati kif hawn qabel imsemmi, tkun hatja ta' reat kontra dan l-Att.

(5) Għall-finijiet tas-subartikoli (2) u (3) ta' dan l-artikolu, l-użu fuq xi biljett, karta ta' l-ittri, tabella, kartellun, pjanċa, reklam jew xi mezz, strument jew dokument iehor miktub, stampat jew mnaqqax, il-kliem "Psikologu", "Psikologu Registrat" dwar xi isem, jew "Soċjetà ta' Psikologi" jew "Psikologi" dwar xi soċjetà, ikun prova biżżejjed bl-għarfien ta' dak l-użu minn kull persuna li jintuza isimha jew dak tas-soċjetà tagħha permezz ta' dawk il-kliem, kemm il-darba dik il-persuna ma għibx prova li l-użu ta' dak il-kliem ikun sar minghajr ma kienet taf u li meta saret taf b'dak l-użu hija hadet il-passi xierqa biex twaqqaf dan milli jkompli jsir.

(6) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu, persuna ma titqiesx li tkun qed tikser id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att jekk dik il-persuna teżercita l-psikologija waqt perjodu ta' adattament jew meta tkun qed taghmel tahrig, f'kull każ taht is-sorveljanza xierqa ta' psikologu registrat u bla hsara għal dawk ir-regolamenti li jistgħu jigu magħmulin.

(7) Bla hsara għad-disposizzjonijiet tas-subartikolu (6) ta' dan l-artikolu, ebda persuna jew organizzazzjoni ohra ma għandha timpjega lil xi persuna barra minn psikologu registrat għall-fini li jeżercita l-psikologija.

(8) Id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att li jistabilixxu reati jkunu bla hsara għad-disposizzjonijiet ta' kull liġi ohra li jistabilixxu reati u pieni dwar l-istess attijiet jew ommissjonijiet u ma għandhomx, b'mod partikolari, jolqtu l-applikazzjoni ta' xi piena oghla taht xi liġi ohra.

17. Meta, wara inkjesta taht id-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-artikolu 9 ta' dan l-Att, il-Bord isib psikologu hati ta' xi ksur ta' mgieba professjonali jew tal-Kodiċi ta' Etika, il-Bord jista' jimponi dawk il-penalitajiet li l-Ministru jista' jordna.

Multi
amministrattivi.

18. Il-Ministru jista', wara konsultazzjoni mal-Bord, jagħmel regolamenti li ma jkunx inkonsistenti mad-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, biex jagħti effett aħjar lil kull waħda minn dawk id-disposizzjonijiet u b'mod ġenerali biex jirregola l-professjoni tal-psikologija, u, mingħajr preġudizzju għall-ġeneralità ta' dak li hawn qabel imsemmi, dawk ir-regolamenti jistgħu b'mod partikolari jinkludu disposizzjonijiet dwar -

(a) it-twaqqif ta' *standards*, proċeduri u dmirijiet fl-eżerċizzju tal-psikologija u prattiċi oħra li għandhom ikunu mharsa min psikologi, kemm b'mod ġenerali kemm f'oqsma ta' attività partikolari;

(b) l-imġieba professjonali u l-kodiċi ta' etika ta' psikologi u l-livelli ta' kompetenza u integrità li għandhom jinżammu mill-professjoni;

(c) il-htigiet dwar l-iżvilupp kontinwu tal-professjoni biex ikun jista' jinżamm *warrant*;

(d) ix-xogħol li jista' jsir u s-servizzi li jistgħu jingħataw skond il-*warrant*, u l-pattijiet u l-kundizzjonijiet li jistgħu jkunu marbuta ma' dak il-*warrant*, u l-kwalifiċi addizzjonali meħtieġa għal *warrants* li jipprovdu dwar l-eżerċizzju tal-professjoni ta' psikologija f'oqsma speċjalizzati;

(e) id-drittijiet li jistgħu jingħabru mill-Bord b'konnessjoni mal-hrug ta' *warrant*, għal kull reġistrazzjoni taħt dan l-Att, u għal kull xogħol iehor li jista' jsir mill-Bord skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att;

(f) id-drittijiet li jistgħu jingħabru minn psikologi għas-servizzi professjonali tagħhom;

(g) il-proċeduri li għandhom jiġu segwiti f'każijiet ta' mġieba professjonali hażina;

(h) kull proċedura oħra li tista' tkun adottata mill-Bord;

(i) kull haġa oħra li tkun meħtieġa jew awtorizzata b'dan l-Att li tiġi ordnata;

(j) il-pieni, il-penalitajiet u l-konsegwenzi u l-effetti l-oħra li persuna tista' tkun soġġetta għalihom jew li jistgħu jiġru f'każ ta' xi kontravvenzjoni, jew nuqqas ta' tharis ta' xi disposizzjoni ta' xi regolament taħt dan l-artikolu; hekk iżda li

ebda piena hekk ordnata ma ghandha tkun iżjed minn multa ta' hames mitt lira Maltija jew prigunerija ghal żmien ta' tliet xhur, jew dik il-multa u prigunerija flimkien, u, fil-każ ta' reat kontinwat, multa ta' hames liri Maltin ghal kull jum li matulu jkompli r-reat, sa mhux iżjed minn elfejn lira Maltija;

(k) il-multi amministrattivi li jistgħu jigu imposti mill-Bord, li ma ghandhomx ikunu iżjed minn hames mitt lira Maltija.

19. (1) Kull persuna li fid-data tal-bidu fis-seħh ta' dan l-Att ikollha kwalifika professjonali fil-psikologija li tagħmilha eliġibbli għal liċenza ta' *warrant* biex teżercita fil-pajjiż fejn tkun kisbet il-kwalifika professjonali, titqies li tissodisfa d-disposizzjonijiet tal-paragrafu (ċ) tas-subartiklu (3) ta' artikolu 3 ta' dan l-Att. Riservi.

(2) Għall-finijiet tal-paragrafu (d) tas-subartikolu (3) ta' l-artikolu 3 ta' dan l-Att, kull taħriġ li jsir minn xi persuna li tkun kisbet il-kwalifika msemija fil-paragrafu (ċ) ta' dan is-subartiklu bejn id-data meta tkun irċeviet dik il-kwalifika u l-bidu fis-seħh ta' dan l-Att, għandu jitqies bħala taħriġ taht sorveljanza ta' psikologu reġistrat.

(3) Minkejja d-disposizzjonijiet l-oħra ta' dan l-Att, kull persuna li tissodisfa lill-Bord li qabel il-bidu fis-seħh ta' dan l-Att :

(a) ikollha grad fil-livell ta' *Masters* fil-psikologija li jinkludi taħriġ professjonali; u

(b) tkun għallmet il-psikologija regolament fil-livell terzjarju jew kienet tokkupa kariga ta' psikologu f' dipartiment jew aġenzija tal-Gvern għal mill-inqas għaxar snin;

ghandha titqies li tissodisfa l-htigiet tal-paragrafi (ċ) u (d) tas-subartikolu (3) ta' l-artikolu 3 ta' dan l-Att.

20. Il-liġijiet murija fl-Ewwel Kolonna ta' l-Iskeda li tinsab ma' dan l-Att għandhu jkollhom effett skond l-emendi murija fit-Tieni Kolonna tagħha. Emendi
konsegwenzjali.

Skeda

(Artikolu 20)

L-Ewwel Kolonna

It-Tieni Kolonna

Ligi

Limitu ta' l-Emendi

Kodiċi ta'

Organizzazzjoni u
Proċedura Civili,
Kap. 12

1. (1) Fis-subartikolu (2) ta' l-artikolu 588 minflok il-kliem "haddiem soċjali u *marriage counsellor*" ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem "haddiem soċjali, psikologu u *marriage counsellor*".

(2) Fis-subartikolu (3) ta' l-artikolu 646 minflok il-kliem "haddiem soċjali" ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem "haddiem soċjali jew psikologu".

Att Dwar Segretezza
Professjonali,
Kap. 377

2. Fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 3 minflok il-kliem "prokuraturi legali, *accountants*" ghandhom jidhlu l-kliem "prokuraturi legali, haddiema soċjali, psikologi, *accountants*".

Att dwar ir-
Rikonoxximent
Reċiproku ta'
Kwalifiċi, Kap. 451.

3. L-Iskeda li hemm ma' l-Att ghandha tiġi emendata biż-żieda ta' dan li ġej taht il-kolonna relattivi fit-tarf tagħha:-

Professjoni
Regolata/
Attività
Professjonali

Awtorità
Nominata

Ligi

Psikologu

Ministru
responsabbli
għall-politika
soċjali

Att ta' l-2004 dwar
il-Professjoni tal-
Psikologija

Għanijiet u Raġunijiet

L-għan ewlieni ta' dan l-Abbozz huwa li jistabbilixxi l-professjoni tal-psikologija f'Malta u li jirregola l-eżerċizzju tal-professjoni. L-Abbozz jipprovdi wkoll dwar dak mehtieġ biex jinkiseb *warrant* għall-prattika tal-professjoni tal-psikologija u għal hwejjeġ li ghandhom x'jaqsmu magħhom jew anċillari għalihom, b'hekk ikunu mharsa d-drittijiet ta' min juża s-servizzi.

**A BILL
entitled**

*An Act to provide for the regulation of the psychology profession
and to provide for matters connected therewith or ancillary
there to.*

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. (1) The short title of this Act is the Psychology Profession Act, 2004. Short title and commencement.

(2) This Act shall come into force on such a date as the Minister responsible for social policy may by notice in the Gazette appoint and different dates may be so appointed for different provisions and different purposes of this Act.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires: Interpretation.

“adaptation period” means a period during which a person may exercise the profession of psychology in Malta under the supervision of a registered psychologist, which period may include the provision of such further training to such person, as may be required by the Board at the end of which an assessment shall be carried out;

“the Board” means the Malta Psychology Profession Board established by article 4 of this Act;

“the Minister” means the Minister responsible for social policy;

“to practise” in relation to the profession of psychology, includes:-

(a) the taking up or pursuit of the profession of psychology; and

(b) the use, in the course of such pursuit, of the professional title of “Registered Psychologist” or the designatory letters “RPsy”;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Minister under this Act;

“proficiency test” means a test having the aim of assessing a person’s ability to pursue the profession of psychology in Malta, as may be required by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

“psychology” means the professional service that is performed for the purpose of the diagnosing, preventing, remedying or ameliorating human mental, emotional, behavioural or relationship difficulties, in order to evaluate or enhance human performance and to enhance mental or physical health;

“registered psychologist” or “psychologist” means a person who is registered in the official register of psychologists kept by the Board and who has been granted a warrant to practise the profession of psychology, in accordance with article 6 of this Act;

“warrant” means a warrant, issued under article 6 of this Act.

Warrant required to practise profession.

3. (1) No person can hold himself out to be a psychologist or exercise the profession of psychology against remuneration or hold himself to be professionally qualified to do so or assume the title or designation of a registered psychologist unless he is the holder of a warrant issued under this Act.

(2) The warrant under subarticle (1) of this article shall not entitle the holder thereof to exercise the profession of psychology in such areas of specialised psychology as may be prescribed by the Minister as requiring additional qualifications and, or, training, unless the warrant so specifies.

(3) A person shall not qualify for a warrant unless such person -

(a) is a Maltese citizen, or is otherwise permitted to work in Malta under any law; and

(b) is of good conduct; and

(c) is in possession of the Masters Degree in Psychology conferred from the University of Malta or of another professional qualification as the Board may deem equivalent;

(d) satisfies the Board that he has received adequate experience in the practice of the profession of psychology for an aggregate period of at least two years full-time or its equivalent in part-time following the completion of such degree or such other professional qualification under the supervision of a registered psychologist.

(4) The Minister may prescribe, in place of any of the minimum requirements established under the foregoing provisions of this article, other minimum requirements in terms of any international or multinational treaty or agreement entered into by Malta or with the provisions of any legislation the binding force of which derives from any such treaty or agreement.

(5) Without prejudice to any provision made by or under the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act, where the duration of a course leading to the professional qualification possessed by an applicant is less than the duration for the course leading to the Degree conferred by the University of Malta or when the experience referred to in paragraph (d) of subarticle (3) of this article is less than two years, the Board may require the applicant to undertake such adaptation period not exceeding twice the shortfall, as the Board may specify. In addition the Board may also submit the applicant to a proficiency test.

4. (1) There shall be a Board to be known as the Malta Psychology Profession Board which shall consist of seven members as follows:-

(a) four members appointed by the Minister following consultation with any association, if any, registered with the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Act, of whom:

(i) one shall be a chairperson who shall be of recognised standing in the psychology profession having at least six years experience in psychology practice;

(ii) two psychologists who exercise the profession of psychology, one of whom from within the public sector; and

(iii) one person who shall be an advocate with at least five years experience;

(b) (i) Two members nominated by such associations registered with the Board if any, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and appointed by the Minister;

(ii) one psychologist nominated by and from amongst the permanent academic staff responsible for psychology education and training at the University of Malta:

Provided that in relation to the first appointments, “psychologist” means any person who is qualified to be registered under this Act;

Provided further that for the purpose of paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, the associations to be consulted or to make nominations in relation to the first appointment shall be associations that have the qualification to be eventually registered under this Act.

(2) The nominations made in terms of sub-paragraph (i) and (ii) of paragraph (b) of this article shall, for the first time be made within two weeks from a request in writing made therefor by the Minister, and for any subsequent nomination, within one month from the occurrence of any vacancy or when the vacancy arises due to the expiry of the term of office, within one month prior to the said expiry. In the absence of any such nomination, the Minister shall make the appointment from amongst psychologists.

(3) Members of the Board shall hold office for a term of two years:

Provided that the term of office for the first members of the Board appointed under sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (a) of subarticle (1) of this article, shall be of three years, and the second or any subsequent appointment made on the lapse of this initial term shall be for a term of two years.

(4) Members of the Board shall, on the expiration of their term of office, be eligible to be reappointed, but they may not serve the Board for more than three consecutive terms.

(5) In the event that any Board member vacates his office before completing the appointed term, the person appointed in his stead shall be appointed for the unexpired period of the original appointment.

(6) The number of members attending necessary to form a quorum shall be four, but subject to the presence of a quorum, the Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy among its members.

(7) The Minister shall designate a public officer to act as secretary to the Board, but such secretary shall not have a vote.

(8) The chairperson of the Board shall have both an original vote and, in the case of a tie, a casting vote.

(9) Save as aforesaid and as may be prescribed, the Board may make its own rules and otherwise regulate its own procedures.

(10) The meetings of the Board shall be summoned by the Chairperson and the Board shall meet as often as may be necessary, but at least once every three months.

(11) In the exercise of its functions under this Act, the Board may consult with such persons as it may deem appropriate. For such purpose, the Board may invite any such person to attend meetings of the Board.

(12) The Board shall keep a true and correct record of all its proceedings and the Board shall give to the Minister such information as he may require.

5. (1) Without prejudice to its other powers and functions, the purpose of the Board is to regulate the practice and the eligibility to practise the profession of psychology in Malta, and in particular to -

(a) establish and, where necessary, assess existing psychology standards and develop new continuing psychology professional development and other standards, and recommend to the Minister in relation to initial and continuing psychology education, proficiency, experience and other qualifications required for holding a warrant under this Act;

(b) consider, process and make recommendations to the Minister with regard to applications for equivalence and recognition of qualifications in psychology;

(c) examine applications for a warrant to practise the profession of psychology in Malta and make recommendations to the Minister on the award or refusal thereof;

(d) keep an official register of all registered psychologists;

(e) keep an official register of all partnerships of psychologists;

(f) keep such information as may be required in relation to associations representing psychologists in Malta, registered under the provisions of this Act;

(g) make recommendations to the Minister on the code of ethics to be prescribed for the professional behaviour of psychologists; such recommendation shall be made following consultation with the associations registered under the provisions of this Act;

(h) inquire into any allegation of professional misconduct, gross negligence or incompetence by a psychologist;

(i) advise, or make recommendations or otherwise express its views to the Minister on any matter on which the Minister is to consult with the Board or on which the Board is to make recommendations to the Minister or on which the opinion or recommendation of the Board is sought by the Minister;

(j) perform such other functions as may arise from this Act or any other law, or as may be assigned to it by the Minister.

(2) The Board shall, not later than three months after the end of each year, publish in the Gazette a list of persons who on the 31st December of the said year, were registered in the official register of psychologists, and a list of partnerships registered in the official register of partnerships of psychologists.

(3) The Board shall draw up and publish an annual report concerning its general operations.

6. (1) Any person seeking to obtain a warrant to practise Warrants. the profession of psychology in Malta shall make an application to the Board.

(2) If the Board is satisfied that the applicant satisfies the minimum requirements established under this Act, it shall make a recommendation to the Minister for the issue of a warrant.

(3) Where, following an adaptation period where necessary, the Board is satisfied that the applicant has successfully completed his training, the Board shall make a recommendation to the Minister for the issue of a warrant.

(4) For the purpose of establishing whether an applicant has successfully completed his training as aforesaid, the Board may submit the applicant to a proficiency test under the provisions of this Act.

(5) A warrant issued by the Minister under this Act may be issued subject to such limitations or conditions as the Board may recommend in any particular case. Such warrant shall include the area of specialised psychology in which the warrant holder may practice and may include such special conditions for such specific periods as the Board may recommend in accordance with the provisions of this Act and any regulations made thereunder.

(6) In the consideration of an application by any person or by a warrant holder for the practice of the profession in a specialisation of psychology, the Board may direct that such person shall, in addition to the submission of such qualifications as may be prescribed, undertake and successfully complete such training or adaptation period as the Board may indicate.

(7) A warrant issued under this Act shall continue to have effect provided that the warrant holder shall prove to the satisfaction of the Board that he has carried out such programme or programmes of continuing professional development as may be prescribed:

Provided that when a warrant holder fails to prove to the satisfaction of the Board that he has carried out such programme or programmes of continuing professional development, the warrant of the warrant holder shall be considered suspended until such time as he proves to the satisfaction of the Board that he meets the requirements that may be prescribed.

The Board to assess application for warrant.

7. The Board shall consider and make its recommendations on an application for a warrant to practise the profession of psychology as soon as is reasonably practicable but in no case later than four months from the receipt of the application together with all the relevant information and documentation in support of the application. On making its recommendations to the Minister, the Board shall concurrently notify the applicant of its recommendations, together with the reasons upon which these were based.

Loss of warrant.

8. (1) A person shall not be qualified to obtain or shall not retain a warrant in terms of this Act if he has been convicted by any competent court for any crime liable to imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

(2) Where a person loses his warrant following a conviction as is referred to in the preceding subarticle, notice of such loss shall be given by the Minister in the Gazette and shall be communicated by the Board to the person disqualified unless the person has been interdicted by the judgement itself.

(3) The Minister may, at any time, on the recommendation of the Board, reinstate a person who has lost his warrant or grant a warrant to a person who is disqualified in terms of subarticle (1) of this article.

The Board may conduct inquiries.

9. (1) The Board shall inquire into any alleged professional misconduct, gross negligence or incompetence in relation to a psychologist.

(2) For the purposes of this article, the terms “professional misconduct”, “gross negligence”, or “incompetence”, include the following:-

(a) obtaining a warrant in a deceitful or fraudulent manner;

(b) contravention against the Code of Ethics established under this Act;

(c) failure to comply with regulations with respect to professional standards or practice;

(d) failure to comply with any condition attached to the warrant issued under this Act;

(e) use of therapeutic interventions or assumption of professional competence for which the person is not qualified or the person concerned is not authorised to practise in terms of his warrant;

(f) acting in a manner which may be detrimental to the psychology profession;

(g) displaying lack of knowledge, skill or judgement in the practice of the profession of psychology or in carrying out of a duty or obligation undertaken in the practice of psychology.

(3) Any psychologist who is the subject of any inquiry carried out by the Board shall be given all the opportunity to make his defence and bring any evidence in his favour and for such purpose he may be represented by a lawyer or by any other person of his choice.

(4) On finalising the inquiry the Board shall -

(a) if it finds in favour of the psychologist, dismiss the case; or

(b) if it finds the psychologist guilty of the alleged professional misconduct, gross negligence or incompetence, make a report of its findings and submit it to the Minister together with its recommendation for the imposition of any of the following penalties:-

(i) suspension or cancellation of the warrant subject to such conditions as may be recommended;

(ii) suspension or cancellation of the registration of a partnership of psychologists;

- (iii) imposition of conditions to be attached to a warrant;
- (iv) reprimand;
- (v) payment to cover the costs of the inquiry;
- (vi) order the waiver, reduction or refund of any fees charged for services rendered; or
- (vii) any other penalty as may be prescribed.

(5) On the cancellation of the warrant of a psychologist the Board shall strike off the name of such person from the official register of psychologists.

Cap. 273.

(6) For the purposes of this article, the members of the Board have the powers that are or may be conferred under the Inquiries Act, and shall conduct their inquiry as provided for in the same Act.

Appeals.

10. (1) Where it has been decided by the Minister, following the recommendations of the Board that the warrant of a person be suspended or cancelled or that additional conditions be attached to such warrant, that person may, within twenty-one days of the Minister's notification, appeal to the Court of Appeal in its inferior jurisdiction.

(2) The Minister responsible for justice may make regulations prescribing the fees that shall be payable in the Registry of the Court in connection with appeals under this article:

Provided that until such time as fees are so prescribed by the Minister responsible for Justice, the fees payable with respect to appeals to that Court shall be the fees applicable to the Court of Magistrates (Malta).

(3) The Board established under article 29 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure shall make rules establishing the form of such appeals and any other matters related thereto.

Minister may
reinstate warrant.

11. The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, and upon application to this effect, remove such suspension or cancellation, if the applicant meets such requirements that may be prescribed. Where the warrant of the psychologist has been

reinstated, such psychologist is to be again registered in the official register.

12. (1) Any association of psychologists may make an application to the Board to be registered as an association of psychologists for the purposes of this Act. Association of psychologists.

(2) An association shall be qualified to be registered under this article if it proves to the Board that it has a membership of at least ten registered psychologists and that it conforms with such other conditions as may be prescribed. An association shall submit together with the application a list of members and such other information as the Board may require to process the application.

(3) The Board shall have the power to require any association registered under this article to produce such records and information regarding the association and its members as the Board may reasonably require from time to time.

13. (1) Two or more warrant holders may form a civil partnership, in this Act referred to as a “partnership of psychologists”, having for its exclusive object the practice of the profession of psychology and such powers as are necessary for the attainment of the objects of the partnership. Partnerships of psychologists.

(2) No person other than a warrant holder may be a partner in a partnership of psychologists.

(3) Any such partnership shall, when duly formed according to law and on payment of the prescribed fee, be registered with the Board and upon registration the partners shall, for as long as it is so registered, be authorised to act in the name and on behalf of the partnership which shall be entitled to the designation “Psychologists” as part of its name.

(4) Every such partnership shall give to the Board such information as the Board may reasonably require or as may be prescribed, and shall give notice to the Board of any relevant changes in any information previously given to the Board within fifteen days after the date on which the change occurs.

14. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or any other agreement to the contrary, the following provisions shall apply to a partnership of psychologists under this Act:- Conditions applying to a partnership.

(a) the partners shall be jointly and severally responsible for the actions and omissions of each and every one of them in the performance of their professional duties, the maintenance of the required professional standards and conduct and generally in the fulfilment of their obligations under this Act or any other applicable law, and shall also be jointly and severally liable for any loss or damage resulting therefrom;

(b) any act or thing that may be done by a warrant holder may be done by one or more of the partners in the name of the partnership; and any act or thing done in the name of the partnership shall be done by one or more of the partners;

(c) the responsibilities and liabilities for anything done or omitted to be done during the period in which a person was a partner in a partnership of psychologists shall not cease, in respect of such person, by his retirement, death or other cause by which he ceases to be a partner.

(2) Notwithstanding the forgoing provisions of this article, no partner shall exercise the profession of psychology in a specialised area if he is not so entitled by virtue of this warrant, unless he is acting under the supervision of a partner who is in possession of a warrant that entitles him to perform the psychology profession in such specialised area.

Applicability of articles to partnerships.

15. The provisions of articles 9, 10 and 11 of this Act shall apply to partnerships of psychologists as they apply to psychologists *mutatis mutandis*.

Offences and penalties.

16. (1) Any person who, for the purpose of obtaining a warrant or registering a partnership of psychologists under the provisions of this Act, knowingly gives any false information or otherwise acts in a deceitful or fraudulent manner, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding one thousand Maltese liri or to imprisonment not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any person who is found guilty of any other offence against this Act shall be liable on conviction to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri, or to three months imprisonment or to both such fine and imprisonment, and in the case of a continuing offence to a fine (*multa*) of five Maltese liri for each day during which the offence continues, subject to a maximum of two thousand Maltese liri.

(3) Any person who, not being the holder of a warrant issued under this Act, practices the profession of psychology or assumes the designation of, or purports to be, a psychologist or carries out any psychology practice in contravention of the provisions of this Act, shall be guilty of an offence against this article.

(4) Any person who uses the words “Psychologists” in relation to a partnership of psychologists where such partnership is not registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or in any manner whatsoever makes use of a name falsely implying the existence of a partnership of psychologists registered as aforesaid shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

(5) For the purposes of subarticles (2) and (3) of this article, the use on any card, letterhead, sign, board, plate, advertisement or other written, printed or engraved device, instrument or document, of the words “Psychologist”, “Registered Psychologist” in relation to a name, or “Partnership of Psychologists” or “Psychologists” in relation to a partnership, shall be sufficient evidence of the knowledge of such use by any person in relation to whose name or partnership the said words are used, unless such person proves that the use of such words was made without his knowledge and that upon becoming aware of the use he took adequate steps to stop it.

(6) For the purpose of this article, a person shall not be deemed to be in contravention of the provisions of this Act if such person is practicing psychology during an adaptation period or when in training, in any case under the appropriate supervision of a registered psychologist and subject to such regulations as may be prescribed.

(7) Subject to the provisions of subarticle (6) of this article, no person or any other organisation shall employ any person other than a registered psychologist for the purpose of practising psychology.

(8) The provisions of this Act establishing offences shall be without prejudice to the provisions of any other law establishing offences and punishments in respect of the same acts or omissions and shall not, in particular, affect the application of any higher punishment under any other law.

Administrative fines.

17. Where, following an inquiry under the provisions of article 9 of this Act, the Board finds a psychologist guilty of any breach of professional conduct or of the Code of Ethics, the Board may impose such penalties as the Minister may prescribe.

Minister may make regulations.

18. The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, make regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to give better effect to any of such provisions and generally to regulate the psychology profession, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may in particular include provisions with respect to -

(a) the establishment of psychology practice, standards, procedures and other duties and practices to be followed by psychologists, either generally or in particular fields of activity;

(b) the professional conduct and code of ethics of psychologists and the standards of competency and integrity to be kept by the profession;

(c) the requirements in relation to continuing professional development for the maintenance of a warrant;

(d) the work which can be performed and the services which can be rendered in terms of a warrant, and the terms and conditions which can be attached to such warrant, and the additional qualifications necessary for warrants providing for the practice of the profession of psychology in specialised practice;

(e) the fees that may be charged by the Board in connection with the application for the issue of a warrant, for the making of any registration under this Act, and for any other operations that may be carried out by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

(f) the fees that may be charged by psychologists for their professional services;

(g) the procedures to be followed in cases of professional misconduct;

(h) any other procedures that may be adopted by the Board;

(i) any matter which is required or is authorised by this Act to be prescribed;

(j) the punishments, penalties and other consequences and effects to which a person may become liable or which may take place in the event of any contravention of, or non-compliance with, any provision of any regulation under this article; so however that no punishment so prescribed shall exceed a fine (*multa*) of five hundred Maltese liri, or imprisonment for a term of three months, or both such fine and imprisonment, and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a fine (*multa*) of five Maltese liri for each day during which the offence continues, subject to a maximum of two thousand Maltese liri;

(k) the administrative penalties that may be imposed by the Board, which shall not exceed five hundred Maltese liri.

19. (1) Any person who on the coming into force of this Act is in possession of a professional qualification in psychology that makes him eligible for a warrant licence to practice in the country where the professional qualification was obtained, shall be deemed to have satisfied the provisions of paragraph (c) of subarticle (3) of article 3 of this Act. Savings.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (d) of subarticle (3) of article 3 of this Act, any training undertaken by any person who has obtained the qualification referred to in paragraph (c) of this subarticle, between the date of such qualification and the coming into force of this Act, shall be deemed to have been undertaken under the supervision of a registered psychologist.

(3) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Act, any person who satisfies the Board that prior to the coming into force of this Act:

(a) is in possession of a Masters degree in psychology which includes professional training; and

(b) lectured at tertiary level on a regular basis in psychology or held a post of psychologist in a Government department or agency for at least ten years,

shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of subarticle (3) of article 3 of this Act.

Consequential amendments.

20. The enactments shown in the First Column of the Schedule to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments shown in the Second Column thereof.

Schedule

(Article 20)

First Column
Enactment

Second Column
Extent of Amendments

Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, Cap. 12

1. (1) In subarticle (2) of article 588 for the words “social worker or marriage counsellor” there shall be substituted the words “social worker, psychologist or marriage counsellor”.

(2) In subarticle (3) of article 646 for the words “social worker” there shall be substituted the words “social worker or psychologist”.

Professional Secrecy Act, Cap. 377

2. In subarticle (1) of article 3, for the words, “legal procurators, accountants” there shall be substituted the words “legal procurators, social workers, psychologists, accountants”.

Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act, Cap. 451

3. The Schedule thereto shall be amended by the addition of the following under the relative columns at the end thereof:-

Regulated Profession/ Professional Activity	Designated Authority	Legislation
Psychologist	Minister responsible for social policy	Psychology Profession Act, 2004

Objects and Reasons

The main object of this Bill is to establish the profession of psychology in Malta and to regulate the exercise of the profession. The Bill also provides in relation to the requirements necessary to obtain a warrant to practise the profession of psychology, and for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto, thus safeguarding the rights of service users.