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Mandatory Continuing Education:

How Did We Get Here, and What Happens Next?

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With the CE bill now written into law, there are many understandable questions and concerns. These bulleted points below are intended to clarify many of these questions and concerns.

More specifically, I will aim to 1) highlight in summary fashion relevant factors and history behind the CE bill, and 2) outline next steps.

Background and History

- New York had long been one of a dwindling number of states with no CE requirement for psychologists.
- In a NYSPA survey conducted in 2015-2016, a majority of respondents (58%) were in favor of a CE requirement.
- Subsequently the NYSPA Council of Representatives voted to explore a framework for possible CE legislation. That task was assigned to the Legislative Committee, and a CE Subcommittee was created.
- The CE Subcommittee studied the CE issue and gathered information from other states.
- The CE Subcommittee recommended 36 hours (including three hours in ethics) of mandatory CE within a three-year period. With much discussion in both the LC and Council, this recommendation was subsequently adopted by Council as NYSPA policy.
- Concurrent with the above events, NYSAN (NYS Association of Neuropsychologists) introduced its own bill for mandatory CE with a requirement of 60 hours in a three-year cycle.
- With the introduction of NYSPA's CE bill, NYSAN dropped its 60-hour proposal and joined with NYSPA in supporting NYSPA's bill.
- Throughout this period of time there was increasing concern about the legislature potentially writing its own mandatory CE bill with little if any input from NYSPA.
- Case in point to consider: NY quickly enacted mandates within the SAFE Act in response to the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT.
- Case in point to consider: NJ quickly pursued CE mandates in response to a domestic violence incident in that state.

- By 2018, New York stood alone as the only state with no CE requirement for psychologists. (Follow this APA link for a table of CE requirements for each state: <http://apa.org/ed/ce/resources/state-requirements.pdf>)
- The optics of “no CE requirement” became increasingly problematic.
- Considering all the above factors, NYSPA Council recognized the importance of active engagement in shaping New York CE legislation.

Next Steps

- Prior to implementation of the CE requirement in 2021, regulations need to be written.
- Based on the law, the regulations are the “fine print.”
- The State Education Department has the responsibility for drafting and subsequent implementation of regulations.
- In drafting regulations, SED invites and will consider input from NYSPA.
- NYSPA will certainly be actively engaged in this process. Both our lobbyist (JacksonLewis) and Director of Professional Affairs (Jerry Grodin) are well-connected with SED.
- Internally within NYSPA, the CE Subcommittee (chaired by Rafael Javier) will be turning its attention to the development of regulations and the regulatory process.

I anticipate that CE will be a regular topic on the agenda of Legislative Committee meetings throughout the regulatory process. The LC meets from 9-12 on the same day as Council, and all LC meetings are open to any NYSPA member.

Thank you for your interest in and support of NYSPA’s legislative agenda.