

Draft House Bill 768 Workgroup Meeting Minutes
Department of Health Professions
Board Room 3
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Monday, July 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

MEETING CHAIR: David Brown, D.C., Agency Director, Department of Health Professions

WORKGROUP MEMBERS: Eric Reynolds, JD
Honorable Claude V. Worrell II
Seth Ragosta, JD
Stacey Hoffmann, Psy.D., LCP
Sonal Pancholi Doran, Psy.D., LCP

**WORKGROUP MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Martin Buxton, MD

**BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
STAFF PRESENT:** Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP, Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Meagan Ohlsson, Sr. Licensing Specialist

**BOARD OF MEDICINE
STAFF PRESENT:** William Harp, MD, Executive Director
Jennifer Deschenes, JD, MS, Deputy Executive Director

DHP STAFF PRESENT: Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy
Josh Boggan, LMSW, Case Intake Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT: Dr. Brown read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions and the emergency egress procedures.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The agenda was adopted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**OVERVIEW OF HOUSE
BILL 768 (HERRING)** Ms. Barrett provided an overview of House Bill 768, which directs the Boards of Psychology and Medicine to jointly convene a workgroup to study and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the availability of qualified forensic psychologist willing to serve as court-appointed experts in family law proceedings.

Ms. Barrett summarized the workgroup's responsibilities, which include examining the complaint and investigation processes that may deter qualified professionals from accepting court appointments; reviewing regulatory and common law approaches adopted in other jurisdictions; assessing whether

regulatory or statutory changes are warranted to provide protections for mental health professionals serving as court-appointed evaluators; and developing recommendations to increase the number of qualified court-appointed evaluators.

The workgroup's findings and recommendations are to be submitted to the Chairs of the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice and the House Committee on Health and Human Services by November 1, 2026.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The workgroup discussed the Board's complaint and investigation processes. It was noted that between January 2021 and December 2025, the Board of Psychology received 809 total complaints against licensees, of which 40 involved court-ordered evaluations. Following the Board's initial review of the 40 cases, evidence of a potential violation was identified in five cases.

The workgroup also examined relevant statutory and common law approaches adopted by other jurisdictions. Following its review, the members concluded that the statutory frameworks in Florida and Idaho were the most favorable because their statutory language is clear, concise, and provides greater clarity regarding the role and protections of court-appointed evaluators.

RECESS:

The workgroup recessed at 11:40 a.m.

RECONVENE:

The workgroup reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION:

The workgroup continued to discuss potential ways to address the shortage of available forensic psychologists who are willing to serve as court-appointed experts in family law proceedings.

NEXT STEPS:

The workgroup will reconvene for further discussion.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.