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### Authorizing the Use of Psychiatric Technicians in the Care of Developmentally Disabled Individuals in State Institutions

Colorado General Assembly

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## CHAPTER 112

## PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

## PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

SENATE BILL NO. 346. BY SENATORS Phelps, Beno, Hughes, Baca-Barragan, Bishop, Groff, Holme, McCormick, Meiklejohn, D. Sandoval, P. Sandoval, Soash, Stockton, and Zakheim; also REPRESENTATIVES Kirscht, Boley, Herzberger, Johnson, Jones, Lucero, Neale, and Showalter.

## AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS IN THE CARE OF DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

Section 1. 12-42-102 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes 1973, 1978 Repl. Vol., is amended to read:

**12-42-102. Definitions.** (4) The practice as a "psychiatric technician" means the performance for compensation of selected acts requiring interpersonal and technical skills, and, in a state hospital or other state institutional setting approved by the department of institutions, said practice includes the administering of selected treatments and selected medications prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist, in the care of and in the observation and recognition of symptoms and reactions of the mentally ill patient OR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUAL under the direction of a licensed physician and the supervision of a registered professional nurse. The selected acts in the care of the mentally ill patient OR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUAL shall not require the substantial specialized skill, judgment, and knowledge required in professional nursing.

Section 2. 12-42-106 (1) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes 1973, 1978 Repl. Vol., is amended to read:

**12-42-106. Examinations.** (1) (b) (I) Basic psychiatric nursing, including social and cultural concepts FOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS WORKING WITH MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS;

(II) MENTAL RETARDATION THEORY AND PRACTICE, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT FOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS WORKING WITH DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS.

*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

Section 3. 12-42-108, Colorado Revised Statutes 1973, 1978 Repl. Vol., is RECREATED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

**12-42-108. License by waiver and examination.** (1) The board may issue a license without examination to any person who, not later than July 1, 1980, submits to the board written evidence, verified by oath, that such person:

(a) Is of good moral character. In determining a person's character, the board shall be governed by the provisions of section 24-5-101, C.R.S. 1973.

(b) Has practiced in a state hospital or other state institutional setting approved by the department of institutions, working with developmentally disabled individuals, for at least twelve consecutive months within the three-year period immediately prior to application pursuant to this section. The board may accept evidence of such practice through written statements, verified by oath, of one physician and two registered professional nurses, each licensed to practice in this state, that each has personal knowledge of the applicant's practice, working with developmentally disabled individuals.

(c) Has passed a written examination on nursing service and mental retardation approved by the state board of nursing pursuant to section 12-38-110.

Section 4. 12-42-111 (1) (b) and (3), Colorado Revised Statutes 1973, 1978 Repl. Vol., are amended to read:

**12-42-111. Accredited psychiatric technician educational program.** (1) (b) (I) Psychiatric nursing, FOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS WORKING WITH MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS, which shall include, but not be limited to, fundamentals of psychiatric and mental health nursing with learning experience planned to develop the following skills: The knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function adequately as a contributing member of the psychiatric team, understanding of self and patient relationship, principles of psychiatric nursing including social and cultural studies, rehabilitation, and special therapies.

(II) MENTAL RETARDATION PRACTICE, FOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS WORKING WITH DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, MENTAL RETARDATION THEORY AND PRACTICE, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT.

(3) If the requirements of this article for an accredited psychiatric technician educational program are met, the institution shall be accredited as a psychiatric technician educational program for psychiatric technicians FOR WORK WITH MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS OR WITH DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, for so long as such institution meets the requirements of this article.

Section 5. **Effective date.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1979.

Section 6. **Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 24, 1979