

Why Renewal Fees Are So HIGH

Many licensees inquire as to why renewal fees are so high. The Board is well aware of the high fees that its licensees pay and points this out to the Legislature in the agency's public testimonies and its biannual appropriation requests to the Legislature.

Briefly, there are two reasons. First, several years ago the Texas Legislature added a professional fee of \$200 to each provisionally licensed psychologist's and each licensed psychologist's annual renewal fee. In other words, the \$200 professional fee is in addition to existing renewal fees and is simply rolled into one fee that is charged the licensee. Some other professionals pay this fee as well.

Second, in recent years, the Legislature has by law required the Board to raise its renewal fees by a certain amount. For instance, the last legislatively mandated fee increase for renewals was \$1 per year for all licensees. These collected amounts are dedicated to fund the new Office of Patient Protection (refer to articles about the OPP in prior newsletters). Before that, renewal fees were raised \$3-\$5 for licensees to pay for the online renewal option.

The Psychology Board collects fees not only for renewal of licenses, but also for applications and examinations and a few miscellaneous fees. It is important to remember that the total annual fees that the Psychology Board collects exceeds the amount that the agency is appropriated by the Legislature for Board operations. This amount, which is almost one million dollars, remains in general revenue and is used by the Legislature to fund other areas of state government.

Links to Sunset Reports and Proposed Sunset Legislation

Link to Sunset Reports: www.sunset.state.tx.us/79.htm

Link to Proposed Sunset Legislation (SB 406 and HB 1015): www.capitol.state.tx.us