


## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	August 30, 2017
<b>TO</b>	Board of Psychology
<b>FROM</b>	 Konnor Leitzell Central Services Student Assistant
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Agenda Item #16(b)(2)(U) – AB 689 (Obernolte) Juvenile Proceedings: Competency

### **Background:**

This bill would revise the duties of a court appointed expert who performs evaluations on a minor whose competency is in doubt. This bill would require the Judicial Council in conjunction with various stakeholders to develop and adopt a rule of court identifying the training and experience needed for an expert to be competent in forensic evaluations of juveniles. This bill would also require a minor's competency be determined at an evidentiary hearing, would establish a presumption of mental competency unless proven by a preponderance of the evidence otherwise, and upon a finding of incompetency, require the court to immediately refer the minor to services designed to help the minor attain competency.

**Location:** Assembly Committee on Appropriations

**Status:** 5/26/2017 In committee: Held under submission.

**Votes:** 03/21/2017 Assembly Committee on Public Safety (7-0-0)

### **Action Requested:**

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch AB 689 (Obernolte) due to the potential impact on psychologists that perform evaluations for the courts and psychologists that provide services to help minors attain competency.