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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1784

03/12/2015 Authored by Thissen

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to health professionals; eliminating one of the grounds for disciplinary  
1.3 action; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 147.091, subdivision 1;  
1.4 repealing Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 214.105.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 147.091, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Grounds listed.** The board may refuse to grant a license, may  
1.8 refuse to grant registration to perform interstate telemedicine services, or may impose  
1.9 disciplinary action as described in section 147.141 against any physician. The following  
1.10 conduct is prohibited and is grounds for disciplinary action:

1.11 (a) Failure to demonstrate the qualifications or satisfy the requirements for a license  
1.12 contained in this chapter or rules of the board. The burden of proof shall be upon the  
1.13 applicant to demonstrate such qualifications or satisfaction of such requirements.

1.14 (b) Obtaining a license by fraud or cheating, or attempting to subvert the licensing  
1.15 examination process. Conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert the licensing  
1.16 examination process includes, but is not limited to: (1) conduct which violates the  
1.17 security of the examination materials, such as removing examination materials from the  
1.18 examination room or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or  
1.19 previously administered licensing examination; (2) conduct which violates the standard of  
1.20 test administration, such as communicating with another examinee during administration  
1.21 of the examination, copying another examinee's answers, permitting another examinee  
1.22 to copy one's answers, or possessing unauthorized materials; or (3) impersonating an  
1.23 examinee or permitting an impersonator to take the examination on one's own behalf.

2.1 (c) Conviction, during the previous five years, of a felony reasonably related to the  
2.2 practice of medicine or osteopathy. Conviction as used in this subdivision shall include  
2.3 a conviction of an offense which if committed in this state would be deemed a felony  
2.4 without regard to its designation elsewhere, or a criminal proceeding where a finding or  
2.5 verdict of guilt is made or returned but the adjudication of guilt is either withheld or  
2.6 not entered thereon.

2.7 (d) Revocation, suspension, restriction, limitation, or other disciplinary action  
2.8 against the person's medical license in another state or jurisdiction, failure to report to the  
2.9 board that charges regarding the person's license have been brought in another state or  
2.10 jurisdiction, or having been refused a license by any other state or jurisdiction.

2.11 (e) Advertising which is false or misleading, which violates any rule of the board,  
2.12 or which claims without substantiation the positive cure of any disease, or professional  
2.13 superiority to or greater skill than that possessed by another physician.

2.14 (f) Violating a rule promulgated by the board or an order of the board, a state, or  
2.15 federal law which relates to the practice of medicine, or in part regulates the practice of  
2.16 medicine including without limitation sections 604.201, 609.344, and 609.345, or a state  
2.17 or federal narcotics or controlled substance law.

2.18 (g) Engaging in any unethical conduct; conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm  
2.19 the public, or demonstrating a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare or safety  
2.20 of a patient; or medical practice which is professionally incompetent, in that it may create  
2.21 unnecessary danger to any patient's life, health, or safety, in any of which cases, proof  
2.22 of actual injury need not be established.

2.23 (h) Failure to supervise a physician assistant or failure to supervise a physician  
2.24 under any agreement with the board.

2.25 (i) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person in the practice of medicine, except that  
2.26 it is not a violation of this paragraph for a physician to employ, supervise, or delegate  
2.27 functions to a qualified person who may or may not be required to obtain a license or  
2.28 registration to provide health services if that person is practicing within the scope of that  
2.29 person's license or registration or delegated authority.

2.30 (j) Adjudication as mentally incompetent, mentally ill or developmentally disabled,  
2.31 or as a chemically dependent person, a person dangerous to the public, a sexually  
2.32 dangerous person, or a person who has a sexual psychopathic personality by a court of  
2.33 competent jurisdiction, within or without this state. Such adjudication shall automatically  
2.34 suspend a license for the duration thereof unless the board orders otherwise.

2.35 (k) Engaging in unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct shall include  
2.36 any departure from or the failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable

3.1 and prevailing medical practice in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not  
3.2 be established.

3.3 (l) Inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by  
3.4 reason of illness, drunkenness, use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of  
3.5 material or as a result of any mental or physical condition, including deterioration through  
3.6 the aging process or loss of motor skills.

3.7 (m) Revealing a privileged communication from or relating to a patient except when  
3.8 otherwise required or permitted by law.

3.9 (n) Failure by a doctor of osteopathy to identify the school of healing in the  
3.10 professional use of the doctor's name by one of the following terms: osteopathic physician  
3.11 and surgeon, doctor of osteopathy, or D.O.

3.12 (o) Improper management of medical records, including failure to maintain adequate  
3.13 medical records, to comply with a patient's request made pursuant to sections 144.291 to  
3.14 144.298 or to furnish a medical record or report required by law.

3.15 (p) Fee splitting, including without limitation:

3.16 (1) paying, offering to pay, receiving, or agreeing to receive, a commission, rebate,  
3.17 or remuneration, directly or indirectly, primarily for the referral of patients or the  
3.18 prescription of drugs or devices;

3.19 (2) dividing fees with another physician or a professional corporation, unless the  
3.20 division is in proportion to the services provided and the responsibility assumed by each  
3.21 professional and the physician has disclosed the terms of the division;

3.22 (3) referring a patient to any health care provider as defined in sections 144.291 to  
3.23 144.298 in which the referring physician has a "financial or economic interest," as defined  
3.24 in section 144.6521, subdivision 3, unless the physician has disclosed the physician's  
3.25 financial or economic interest in accordance with section 144.6521; and

3.26 (4) dispensing for profit any drug or device, unless the physician has disclosed the  
3.27 physician's own profit interest.

3.28 The physician must make the disclosures required in this clause in advance and in writing  
3.29 to the patient and must include in the disclosure a statement that the patient is free to  
3.30 choose a different health care provider. This clause does not apply to the distribution  
3.31 of revenues from a partnership, group practice, nonprofit corporation, or professional  
3.32 corporation to its partners, shareholders, members, or employees if the revenues consist  
3.33 only of fees for services performed by the physician or under a physician's direct  
3.34 supervision, or to the division or distribution of prepaid or capitated health care premiums,  
3.35 or fee-for-service withhold amounts paid under contracts established under other state law.

4.1 (q) Engaging in abusive or fraudulent billing practices, including violations of the  
4.2 federal Medicare and Medicaid laws or state medical assistance laws.

4.3 (r) Becoming addicted or habituated to a drug or intoxicant.

4.4 (s) Prescribing a drug or device for other than medically accepted therapeutic or  
4.5 experimental or investigative purposes authorized by a state or federal agency or referring  
4.6 a patient to any health care provider as defined in sections 144.291 to 144.298 for services  
4.7 or tests not medically indicated at the time of referral.

4.8 (t) Engaging in conduct with a patient which is sexual or may reasonably be  
4.9 interpreted by the patient as sexual, or in any verbal behavior which is seductive or  
4.10 sexually demeaning to a patient.

4.11 (u) Failure to make reports as required by section 147.111 or to cooperate with an  
4.12 investigation of the board as required by section 147.131.

4.13 (v) Knowingly providing false or misleading information that is directly related  
4.14 to the care of that patient unless done for an accepted therapeutic purpose such as the  
4.15 administration of a placebo.

4.16 (w) Aiding suicide or aiding attempted suicide in violation of section 609.215 as  
4.17 established by any of the following:

4.18 (1) a copy of the record of criminal conviction or plea of guilty for a felony in  
4.19 violation of section 609.215, subdivision 1 or 2;

4.20 (2) a copy of the record of a judgment of contempt of court for violating an  
4.21 injunction issued under section 609.215, subdivision 4;

4.22 (3) a copy of the record of a judgment assessing damages under section 609.215,  
4.23 subdivision 5; or

4.24 (4) a finding by the board that the person violated section 609.215, subdivision  
4.25 1 or 2. The board shall investigate any complaint of a violation of section 609.215,  
4.26 subdivision 1 or 2.

4.27 (x) Practice of a board-regulated profession under lapsed or nonrenewed credentials.

4.28 ~~(y) Failure to repay a state or federally secured student loan in accordance with~~  
4.29 ~~the provisions of the loan.~~

4.30 ~~(z)~~ (y) Providing interstate telemedicine services other than according to section  
4.31 147.032.

4.32 **Sec. 2. REPEALER.**

4.33 Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 214.105, is repealed.

**214.105 HEALTH-RELATED LICENSING BOARDS; DEFAULT ON FEDERAL LOANS OR SERVICE OBLIGATIONS.**

A health-related licensing board may refuse to grant a license or may impose disciplinary action against a person regulated by the board if the person is intentionally in nonpayment, default, or breach of a repayment or service obligation under any federal educational loan, loan repayment, or service conditional scholarship program. The board shall consider the reasons for nonpayment, default, or breach of a repayment or service obligation and may not impose disciplinary action against a person in cases of total and permanent disability or long-term temporary disability lasting more than a year.