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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 203—ASSEMBLYMEN SEALE,  
PARNELL, HARDY, BUCKLEY AND MABEY

MARCH 14, 2005

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Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

**SUMMARY**—Makes various changes concerning osteopathic medicine. (BDR 54-1116)

**FISCAL NOTE:** Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to osteopathic medicine; authorizing the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to employ hearing officers to conduct disciplinary hearings; authorizing the Board to obtain search warrants under certain circumstances; revising the provisions governing unprofessional conduct; authorizing a holder of a special license to treat patients in public mental health facilities under certain circumstances; revising the provisions governing the placing of a license on inactive status; revising the provisions governing the renewal of a license; increasing certain fees; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law defines "unprofessional conduct" for the purpose of establishing conduct of a licensed osteopathic physician which is subject to disciplinary action by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. (NRS 633.131, 633.511)

This bill expands that definition of "unprofessional conduct" to include other conduct that may subject a licensed osteopathic physician to disciplinary action.

Existing law establishes the procedures for initiating disciplinary action against a licensed osteopathic physician and gives the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine certain powers and the authority to investigate complaints. (NRS 633.511, 633.526-633.681)

This bill authorizes the Board to employ or appoint hearing officers and to delegate to those hearing officers its authority to conduct disciplinary hearings. Such a hearing officer is required to report back to the Board with findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Board is then authorized to take action, refer the matter back to the hearing officer for further hearings or to conduct its own hearings. This



bill also authorizes the Board to obtain a search warrant if it is needed for an investigation or hearing.

Existing law authorizes the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to issue a special license to a person who meets certain qualifications to serve as a resident medical officer in a hospital or as a professional employee of the State of Nevada or the United States. (NRS 633.411)

This bill authorizes a person who holds a special license to provide basic medical services to a patient under the supervision of a public mental health facility in certain circumstances and to charge a fee for providing those services.

Existing law provides certain requirements for a licensee to renew his license, including a requirement that the applicant submit to the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine verified evidence of completion of the required continuing medical education. (NRS 633.471)

This bill requires that an applicant submit to the Board an affidavit stating that he has completed the required continuing medical education in lieu of verified evidence. However, the Board is required to request verified evidence of completion of continuing medical education from at least one-third of the applicants for renewal of a license each year. Failure of an applicant to provide the Board with such verified evidence is grounds for disciplinary action.

This bill also authorizes a licensed osteopathic physician to have his license placed in inactive status and imposes an inactive license fee. Such a licensee is not required to annually renew his license, but may renew his license by complying with certain requirements including providing the Board with verified evidence that he has completed the required continuing medical education for the years in which his license was inactive.

Existing law imposes various fees relating to the practice of osteopathic medicine to be collected by the Board.

This bill increases each of those fees.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section. 1.** Chapter 633 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *“Hearing officer” means a member of the staff of the Board who has been appointed by the Board to serve as a hearing officer.*

**Sec. 3.** *The Board may delegate to a hearing officer its authority to conduct a hearing concerning the discipline of a licensee pursuant to NRS 633.621. The hearing officer has the powers of the Board in connection with the hearing, and shall report to the Board with findings of fact and conclusions of law within 30 days after the final hearing on the matter. The Board may take action based upon the report of the hearing officer, refer the matter to the hearing officer for further hearings or conduct its own hearings on the matter.*

**Sec. 4.** NRS 633.011 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.011 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 633.021 to 633.131,



1 inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to  
2 them in those sections.

3 **Sec. 5.** NRS 633.131 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 633.131 1. "Unprofessional conduct" includes:

5 (a) Willfully making a false or fraudulent statement or  
6 submitting a forged or false document in applying for a license to  
7 practice osteopathic medicine ~~or~~ *or in applying for renewal of a*  
8 *license to practice osteopathic medicine.*

9 (b) Failure of a licensee to designate his school of practice in the  
10 professional use of his name by the term D.O., osteopathic  
11 physician, doctor of osteopathy or a similar term.

12 (c) Directly or indirectly giving to or receiving from any person,  
13 corporation or other business organization any fee, commission,  
14 rebate or other form of compensation for sending, referring or  
15 otherwise inducing a person to communicate with an osteopathic  
16 physician in his professional capacity or for any professional  
17 services not actually and personally rendered, except as otherwise  
18 provided in subsection 2.

19 (d) Employing, directly or indirectly, any suspended or  
20 unlicensed person in the practice of osteopathic medicine, or the  
21 aiding or abetting of any unlicensed person to practice osteopathic  
22 medicine.

23 (e) Advertising the practice of osteopathic medicine in a manner  
24 which does not conform to the guidelines established by regulations  
25 of the Board.

26 (f) Engaging in any:

27 (1) Professional conduct which is intended to deceive or  
28 which the Board by regulation has determined is unethical; or

29 (2) Medical practice harmful to the public or any conduct  
30 detrimental to the public health, safety or morals which does not  
31 constitute gross or repeated malpractice or professional  
32 incompetence.

33 (g) Administering, dispensing or prescribing any controlled  
34 substance or any dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS,  
35 otherwise than in the course of legitimate professional practice or as  
36 authorized by law.

37 (h) Habitual drunkenness or habitual addiction to the use of a  
38 controlled substance.

39 (i) Performing, assisting in or advising an unlawful abortion or  
40 the injection of any liquid silicone substance into the human body.

41 (j) Willful disclosure of a communication privileged pursuant to  
42 a statute or court order.



(k) Willful disobedience of the regulations of the State Board of Health, the State Board of Pharmacy or the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

(l) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any prohibition made in this chapter.

*(m) Failure of a licensee to maintain timely, legible, accurate and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient.*

*(n) Making alterations to the medical records of a patient that the licensee knows to be false.*

*(o) Making or filing a report which the licensee knows to be false.*

*(p) Failure of a licensee to file a record or report as required by law, or willfully obstructing or inducing any person to obstruct such filing.*

*(q) Failure of a licensee to make medical records of a patient available for inspection and copying as provided by NRS 629.061.*

2. It is not unprofessional conduct:

(a) For persons holding valid licenses issued pursuant to this chapter to practice osteopathic medicine in partnership under a partnership agreement or in a corporation or an association authorized by law, or to pool, share, divide or apportion the fees and money received by them or by the partnership, corporation or association in accordance with the partnership agreement or the policies of the board of directors of the corporation or association;

(b) For two or more persons holding valid licenses issued pursuant to this chapter to receive adequate compensation for concurrently rendering professional care to a patient and dividing a fee ~~if~~ if the patient has full knowledge of this division and if the division is made in proportion to the services performed and the responsibility assumed by each; or

(c) For a person licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter to form an association or other business relationship with an optometrist pursuant to the provisions of NRS 636.373.

**Sec. 6.** NRS 633.271 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.271 The Board may:

1. Appoint an Executive Director who is entitled to such compensation as *is* determined by the Board.

2. Maintain offices in as many localities in the State as it finds necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

3. Employ attorneys, *hearing officers*, investigators and other professional consultants and clerical personnel necessary to the discharge of its duties.



1     **Sec. 7.** NRS 633.281 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2     633.281 1. For the purposes of this chapter:

3     (a) The Secretary of the Board, or in his absence any member of  
4 the Board, *or a hearing officer* may administer oaths.

5     (b) The Secretary or President of the Board *or a hearing officer*  
6 may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the  
7 production of books and papers.

8     2. If any witness refuses to attend or testify or produce any  
9 books and papers as required by the subpoena, the Secretary or  
10 President of the Board may report to the district court by petition,  
11 setting forth that:

12     (a) Due notice has been given of the time and place of  
13 attendance of the witness or the production of the books and papers;

14     (b) The witness has been subpoenaed by the Board pursuant to  
15 this section; and

16     (c) The witness has failed or refused to attend or produce the  
17 books and papers required by the subpoena before the Board which  
18 is named in the subpoena, or has refused to answer questions  
19 propounded to him,

20     ↳ and asking for an order of the court compelling the witness to  
21 ~~{attend and testify or produce the books and papers before the~~  
22 ~~Board.}~~ *comply with the subpoena.*

23     3. Upon such petition, the court shall enter an order directing  
24 the witness to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed  
25 by the court in its order, the time to be not more than 10 days ~~{from}~~  
26 *after* the date of the order, and then and there show cause why he  
27 has not ~~{attended or testified or produced the books or papers before~~  
28 ~~the Board.}~~ *complied with the subpoena.* A certified copy of the  
29 order ~~{shall}~~ *must* be served upon the witness.

30     4. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly  
31 issued by the Board ~~{}~~ *or hearing officer*, the court shall enter an  
32 order that the witness appear before the Board *or hearing officer* at  
33 the time and place fixed in the order and testify or produce the  
34 required books or papers, and upon failure to obey the order, the  
35 witness ~~{shall}~~ *must* be dealt with as for contempt of court.

36     5. *The Board may obtain a search warrant from a magistrate*  
37 *upon a showing that the warrant is needed for an investigation or*  
38 *hearing being conducted by the Board and that reasonable cause*  
39 *exists to issue the warrant.*

40     **Sec. 8.** NRS 633.411 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41     633.411 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 633.315,  
42 the Board may issue a special license to a person qualified under  
43 this section to authorize him to serve:

44     (a) As a resident medical officer in any hospital in Nevada. A  
45 person issued such a license ~~{shall}~~ *may* practice osteopathic



1 medicine only within the confines of the hospital specified in the  
2 license and under the supervision of the regular medical staff of that  
3 hospital.

4 (b) As a professional employee of the State of Nevada or of the  
5 United States. A person issued such a license ~~[shall]~~ **may** practice  
6 osteopathic medicine only within the scope of his employment and  
7 under the supervision of the appropriate state or federal medical  
8 agency.

9 2. An applicant for a special license under this section must:

10 (a) Be a graduate of a school of osteopathic medicine and have  
11 completed a hospital internship.

12 (b) Pay the special license fee specified in this chapter.

13 3. The Board shall not issue a license under subsection 1 unless  
14 it has received a letter from a hospital in Nevada or from the  
15 appropriate state or federal medical agency requesting issuance of  
16 the special license to the applicant.

17 4. A special license issued under this section:

18 (a) Must be issued at a meeting of the Board or between its  
19 meetings by its President and Secretary subject to approval at the  
20 next meeting of the Board.

21 (b) Is valid for a period not exceeding 1 year, as determined by  
22 the Board.

23 (c) May be renewed by the Board upon application and payment  
24 by the licensee of the special license renewal fee specified in this  
25 chapter.

26 (d) Does not entitle the licensee to engage in the private practice  
27 of osteopathic medicine.

28 5. *A person issued a special license under this section may*  
29 *provide basic medical services, including, without limitation,*  
30 *physical examinations, to a patient under the supervision of a*  
31 *public mental health facility, but only as authorized by the hospital*  
32 *or agency responsible for the supervision of the licensee and the*  
33 *director of the public mental health facility. A licensee authorized*  
34 *to perform basic medical services pursuant to this subsection may*  
35 *charge the public mental health facility a fee for the basic medical*  
36 *services provided. The amount of the fee must be approved by the*  
37 *hospital or agency responsible for the supervision of the licensee*  
38 *and the director of the public mental health facility.*  
39 *Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a*  
40 *licensee who provides basic medical services and charges a fee for*  
41 *those services pursuant to this subsection is not engaged in the*  
42 *private practice of osteopathic medicine.*

43 6. The issuance of a special license under this section does not  
44 obligate the Board to grant any regular license to practice  
45 osteopathic medicine.



**Sec. 9.** NRS 633.471 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.471 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~3~~ 4 and in NRS 633.491, every holder of a license issued under this chapter, except a temporary or a special license, may renew his license on or before January 1 of each calendar year after its issuance by:

(a) Applying for renewal on forms provided by the Board;

(b) Submitting the statement required pursuant to NRS 633.326;

(c) Paying the annual license renewal fee specified in this chapter;

(d) Submitting a list of all actions filed or claims submitted to arbitration or mediation for malpractice or negligence against him during the previous year; and

(e) Submitting ~~verified evidence satisfactory~~ *an affidavit* to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal he has attended courses or programs of continuing education approved by the Board totaling a number of hours established by the Board which must not be less than 35 hours nor more than that set in the requirements for continuing medical education of the American Osteopathic Association.

2. The Secretary of the Board shall notify each licensee of the requirements for renewal not less than 30 days before the date of renewal.

3. *The Board shall request submission of verified evidence of completion of the required number of hours of continuing medical education annually from no fewer than one-third of the applicants for renewal of a license. Upon a request from the Board, an applicant for renewal of a license shall submit verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal he attended courses or programs of continuing medical education approved by the Board totaling the number of hours established by the Board.*

4. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the United States Public Health Service are exempt from payment of the annual license renewal fee during their active duty status.

**Sec. 10.** NRS 633.471 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.471 1. Except as provided in subsection ~~3~~ 4 and in NRS 633.491, every holder of a license issued under this chapter, except a temporary or a special license, may renew his license on or before January 1 of each calendar year after its issuance by:

(a) Applying for renewal on forms provided by the Board;

(b) Paying the annual license renewal fee specified in this chapter;



(c) Submitting a list of all actions filed or claims submitted to arbitration or mediation for malpractice or negligence against him during the previous year; and

(d) Submitting ~~[verified evidence satisfactory]~~ *an affidavit* to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal he has attended courses or programs of continuing education approved by the Board totaling a number of hours established by the Board which must not be less than 35 hours nor more than that set in the requirements for continuing medical education of the American Osteopathic Association.

2. The Secretary of the Board shall notify each licensee of the requirements for renewal not less than 30 days before the date of renewal.

3. *The Board shall request submission of verified evidence of completion of the required number of hours of continuing medical education annually from no fewer than one-third of the applicants for renewal of a license. Upon a request from the Board, an applicant for renewal of a license shall submit verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that in the year preceding the application for renewal he attended courses or programs of continuing medical education approved by the Board totaling the number of hours established by the Board.*

4. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the United States Public Health Service are exempt from payment of the annual license renewal fee during their active duty status.

**Sec. 11.** NRS 633.491 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.491 1. A licensee who retires from the practice of osteopathic medicine need not annually renew his license after he files with the Board an affidavit stating the date on which he retired from practice and such other facts to verify his retirement as the Board deems necessary.

2. A retired licensee who desires to return to practice may apply to renew his license by paying all back annual license renewal fees from the date of retirement and submitting verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that he has attended continuing education courses or programs approved by the Board which total:

(a) Twenty-five hours if he has been retired 1 year or less.

(b) Fifty hours within 12 months of the date of the application if he has been retired for more than 1 year.

3. *A licensee who wishes to have his license placed on inactive status must provide the Board with an affidavit stating the date on which he will cease the practice of osteopathic medicine in Nevada and any other facts that the Board may require. The Board shall place the license of the licensee on inactive status upon receipt of:*





(a) *The affidavit required pursuant to this subsection; and*  
(b) *Payment of the inactive license fee prescribed by*  
*NRS 633.501.*

4. *A licensee whose license has been placed on inactive status:*

(a) *Need not annually renew his license.*

(b) *Shall annually pay the inactive license fee prescribed by*  
*NRS 633.501.*

(c) *Shall not engage in the practice of osteopathic medicine in this State.*

5. *A licensee whose license is on inactive status and who wishes to renew his license to practice osteopathic medicine must:*

(a) *Provide to the Board verified evidence satisfactory to the Board of completion of the total number of hours of continuing medical education required for:*

(1) *The year preceding the date of the application for renewal of the license to practice osteopathic medicine; and*

(2) *Each year succeeding the date the license was placed on inactive status.*

(b) *Provide to the Board an affidavit stating that the applicant has not withheld from the Board any information which would provide grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter.*

(c) *Comply with all other requirements for renewal.*

**Sec. 12.** NRS 633.501 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.501 The Board shall charge and collect fees not to exceed the following amounts:

1. Application and initial license fee ..... ~~[\$500]~~ \$1,000

2. Annual license renewal fee..... ~~[300]~~ 800

3. Temporary license fee ..... ~~[100]~~ 500

4. Special license fee ..... ~~[100]~~ 200

5. Special license renewal fee..... ~~[100]~~ 200

6. Reexamination fee..... 200

7. Late payment fee ..... ~~[100]~~ 300

8. For a certificate as an osteopathic physician's assistant..... ~~[200]~~ 500

9. Renewal of a certificate as an osteopathic physician's assistant ..... ~~[100]~~ 300

10. For an application to employ an osteopathic physician's assistant ..... ~~[200]~~ 500

11. *Inactive license fee ..... 200*

**Sec. 13.** NRS 633.511 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.511 The grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter are:

1. Unprofessional conduct.

2. Conviction of:



(a) A violation of any federal or state law regulating the possession, distribution or use of any controlled substance or any dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS;

(b) A felony relating to the practice of osteopathic medicine;

(c) A violation of any of the provisions of NRS 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, inclusive; or

(d) Any offense involving moral turpitude.

3. The suspension of the license to practice osteopathic medicine by any other jurisdiction.

4. Gross or repeated malpractice, which may be evidenced by claims of malpractice settled against a practitioner.

5. Professional incompetence.

6. Failure to comply with the requirements of NRS 633.527.

***7. Failure to comply with the requirements of subsection 3 of NRS 633.471.***

**Sec. 14.** NRS 633.621 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.621 ***1.*** If a formal complaint is filed with the Board pursuant to NRS 633.541, the Secretary of the Board ***or a hearing officer*** shall fix a time and place for a hearing and cause a notice of the hearing and a formal complaint to be served on the person charged at least 20 days before the date fixed for the hearing. If the Board receives a formal complaint concerning subsection 5 of NRS 228.420, such a hearing must be held within 30 days after receiving the formal complaint.

***2. The Board, a hearing officer or a panel of members of the Board designated by the Board shall hold the formal hearing on the charges at the time and place designated in the notice of hearing. If the hearing is before a panel of members of the Board, at least one of the members of the Board appointed pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 of NRS 633.191 must participate in the hearing.***

**Sec. 15.** NRS 633.641 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.641 In any disciplinary proceeding before the Board ***or a hearing officer:***

1. Proof of actual injury need not be established where the formal complaint charges deceptive or unethical professional conduct or medical practice harmful to the public.

2. A certified copy of the record of a court or a licensing agency showing a conviction or the suspension or revocation of a license to practice osteopathic medicine is conclusive evidence of its occurrence.

**Sec. 16.** NRS 633.691 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.691 The Board, a medical review panel of a hospital, ***a hearing officer***, or any person who or other organization which initiates or assists in any lawful investigation or proceeding concerning the discipline of an osteopathic physician for gross



malpractice, repeated malpractice, professional incompetence or unprofessional conduct is immune from any civil action for such initiation or assistance or any consequential damages, if the person or organization acted without malicious intent.

**Sec. 17.** 1. This section and sections 1 to 9, inclusive, and 11 to 16, inclusive, of this act become effective on July 1, 2005.

2. Section 9 of this act expires by limitation on the date of the repeal of the federal law requiring each state to establish procedures for withholding, suspending or restricting the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses for child support arrearages and for noncompliance with certain processes relating to paternity or child support proceedings.

3. Section 10 of this act becomes effective on the date of the repeal of the federal law requiring each state to establish procedures for withholding, suspending or restricting the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses for child support arrearages and for noncompliance with certain processes relating to paternity or child support proceedings.



