

SENATE BILL NO. 198—SENATOR HARDY

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the practice of chiropractic. (BDR 54-834)

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.

AN ACT relating to the practice of chiropractic; revising provisions relating to the practice of chiropractic; providing that a chiropractor's assistant may perform certain ancillary services under indirect supervision in certain circumstances; providing that a chiropractor's assistant is subject to disciplinary action under certain circumstances; providing administrative penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes a chiropractor's assistant to perform certain ancillary services relating to chiropractic under the supervision and control of a chiropractic physician. (NRS 634.125) **Section 7** of this bill provides that a chiropractor's assistant may perform such services under the indirect supervision and control of a chiropractic physician if: (1) the services are performed on an established patient; (2) the supervising chiropractic physician is reasonably accessible by telephone, facsimile or other electronic means; and (3) the services are performed in certain facilities. **Section 7** requires a chiropractic physician who employs one or more chiropractor's assistants who perform services under indirect supervision to maintain certain liability insurance.

Section 4 of this bill authorizes the Chiropractic Physicians' Board of Nevada to adopt regulations providing for the employment by a chiropractic physician of a chiropractor's assistant trainee. **Section 5** of this bill authorizes the Board to adopt regulations governing the process that a supervising chiropractic physician is required to use to evaluate a chiropractor's assistant under his or her supervision and control.

Existing law authorizes the Board to impose certain disciplinary actions against a person practicing chiropractic in this State. (NRS 634.190) **Sections 8-14** of this bill authorize the Board to impose such disciplinary actions against a person providing services as a chiropractor's assistant in this State.



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

Section 1. Chapter 634 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *“Direct supervision” means that a supervising chiropractic physician is present in the chiropractic facility during the period in which a chiropractor’s assistant is performing services or a chiropractor’s assistant trainee is performing duties, and is available to give aid, direction and instruction to the chiropractor’s assistant or chiropractor’s assistant trainee.*

Sec. 3. *“Indirect supervision” means that the supervising chiropractic physician is not present in the chiropractic facility during the period in which a chiropractor’s assistant is performing services.*

Sec. 4. 1. *The Board may adopt regulations which:*

(a) Authorize a chiropractic physician to employ a chiropractor’s assistant trainee; and

(b) Set forth the requirements for a chiropractor’s assistant trainee, including, without limitation, the types of ancillary duties which a chiropractor’s assistant trainee may perform.

2. *Any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must provide that a chiropractor’s assistant trainee shall perform his or her duties only under the direct supervision of a chiropractic physician.*

Sec. 5. *The Board may adopt regulations governing the process that a supervising chiropractic physician shall use to evaluate a chiropractor’s assistant under his or her supervision and control.*

Sec. 6. NRS 634.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

634.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 634.012 to 634.018, inclusive, *and sections 2 and 3 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 7. NRS 634.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:

634.125 **1.** A chiropractor’s assistant may perform such ancillary services relating to chiropractic as he or she is authorized to perform under the terms of a certificate issued by the Board. Those services ~~must~~ *may* be rendered under the *indirect* supervision and control of a chiropractor ~~if~~ *if*:

(a) The services are performed on a patient who has been evaluated by the supervising chiropractic physician to whom the chiropractor’s assistant has been assigned and whose medical records include, without limitation, his or her patient history and



1 *an evaluation, diagnosis and treatment plan prepared by the*
2 *supervising chiropractic physician;*

3 *(b) The supervising chiropractic physician to whom the*
4 *chiropractor's assistant has been assigned is reasonably accessible*
5 *by telephone, facsimile or other electronic means during any*
6 *period in which services are performed under indirect supervision;*
7 *and*

8 *(c) The services are performed:*

9 *(1) In the primary place of practice of the supervising*
10 *chiropractic physician to whom the chiropractor's assistant has*
11 *been assigned; or*

12 *(2) In a hospital in which the supervising chiropractic*
13 *physician to whom the chiropractor's assistant has been assigned*
14 *is employed.*

15 *2. A chiropractic physician who employs one or more*
16 *chiropractor's assistants who perform services under indirect*
17 *supervision shall maintain liability insurance in an amount of not*
18 *less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and not less than \$3,000,000*
19 *annual aggregate for coverage of liability arising from any act or*
20 *omission committed by a chiropractor's assistant while under*
21 *indirect supervision.*

22 **Sec. 8.** NRS 634.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 634.140 The grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant
24 to this chapter are:

25 1. Unprofessional conduct.

26 2. Conviction of:

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

30 (b) A felony relating to the practice of chiropractic;

31 (c) A violation of any of the provisions of NRS 616D.200,
32 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, inclusive; or

33 (d) Any offense involving moral turpitude.

34 3. Suspension or revocation of the license to practice
35 chiropractic by any other jurisdiction.

36 4. Gross or repeated malpractice.

37 5. *Any act by a chiropractor's assistant which the*
38 *chiropractor's assistant is not authorized to perform under the*
39 *terms of a certificate issued by the Board pursuant to*
40 *NRS 634.125.*

41 6. Referring, in violation of NRS 439B.425, a patient to a
42 health facility, medical laboratory or commercial establishment in
43 which the licensee has a financial interest.

44 ~~161~~ 7. Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS
45 449.0151, at any time during which:



- 1 (a) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or
- 2 (b) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension or
- 3 revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.

4 ➔ This subsection applies to an owner or other principal responsible
5 for the operation of the facility.

6 **Sec. 9.** NRS 634.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 634.160 1. The Board or any of its members who become
8 aware that any one or a combination of the grounds for initiating
9 disciplinary action may exist as to a person practicing chiropractic
10 *or providing services as a chiropractor's assistant* in this State
11 shall, and any other person who is so aware may, file a written
12 complaint specifying the relevant facts with the Executive Director
13 of the Board.

14 2. The Board shall retain all complaints filed with the
15 Executive Director pursuant to this section for at least 10 years,
16 including, without limitation, any complaints not acted upon.

17 **Sec. 10.** NRS 634.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 634.190 1. The person charged is entitled to a hearing before
19 the Board, but the failure of the person charged to attend a hearing
20 or to defend himself or herself does not delay or void the
21 proceedings. The Board may, for good cause shown, continue any
22 hearing from time to time.

23 2. If the Board finds the person guilty as charged in the
24 complaint, it may by order:

25 (a) Place the person on probation for a specified period or until
26 further order of the Board.

27 (b) Administer to the person a public reprimand.

28 (c) Limit the practice of the person to, or by the exclusion of,
29 one or more specified branches of chiropractic.

30 (d) Suspend the license of the person to practice chiropractic *or*
31 *the person's certificate as a chiropractor's assistant* for a specified
32 period or until further order of the Board.

33 (e) Revoke the license of the person to practice chiropractic *or*
34 *the person's certificate as a chiropractor's assistant*.

35 (f) Impose a fine of not more than \$5,000 for each act which
36 constitutes a ground for disciplinary action, which must be
37 deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the State General
38 Fund.

39 ➔ The order of the Board may contain such other terms, provisions
40 or conditions as the Board deems proper and which are not
41 inconsistent with law.

42 3. If the Board finds that a licensee has violated the provisions
43 of NRS 439B.425, the Board shall suspend the license for a
44 specified period or until further order of the Board.

45 4. The Board shall not administer a private reprimand.



5. An order that imposes discipline and the findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting that order are public records.

Sec. 11. NRS 634.193 is hereby amended to read as follows:

634.193 1. Any disciplinary action taken by a hearing officer or panel pursuant to NRS 634.050 is subject to the same procedural requirements which apply to disciplinary actions taken by the Board, and the officer or panel has those powers and duties given to the Board in relation thereto.

2. A decision of the hearing officer or panel relating to the imposition of a fine is a final decision in a contested case. Any party aggrieved by a decision of the officer or panel to place a ~~licensee~~ *chiropractic physician or a chiropractor's assistant* on probation or revoke or suspend a license *or certificate* may appeal that decision to the Board.

Sec. 12. NRS 634.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

634.200 1. Any person who has been placed on probation or whose license *or certificate* has been limited, suspended or revoked by the Board is entitled to judicial review of the Board's order.

2. The district court shall give a petition for judicial review of the Board's order priority over other civil matters which are not expressly given that priority by law.

Sec. 13. NRS 634.204 is hereby amended to read as follows:

634.204 1. Any person:

(a) Whose practice of chiropractic has been limited; or

(b) Whose license ~~to practice chiropractic~~ *or certificate* has been suspended until further order or revoked,

➔ by an order of the Board may apply to the Board after a reasonable period for removal of the limitation or restoration of his or her license ~~to~~ *or certificate*.

2. In hearing the application, the Board:

(a) May require the person to submit to a mental or physical examination by physicians or other appropriate persons whom it designates and submit such other evidence of changed conditions and of fitness as it deems proper;

(b) Shall determine whether under all the circumstances the time of the application is reasonable; and

(c) May deny the application or modify or rescind its order as it deems the evidence and the public safety warrant.

Sec. 14. NRS 634.208 is hereby amended to read as follows:

634.208 1. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the Board, through its President, Secretary or its attorney, or the Attorney General, may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to ~~enjoin~~ :

(a) *Enjoin* any person who does not hold a license issued by the Board from practicing chiropractic or representing himself or herself



1 to be a chiropractor. As used in this ~~subsection~~ *paragraph*,
2 “practicing chiropractic” includes the conducting of independent
3 examinations and the offering of opinions regarding the treatment or
4 care, or both, with respect to patients who are residents of this State.

5 *(b) Enjoin any person who does not hold a certificate issued*
6 *pursuant to NRS 634.123 from practicing as a chiropractor’s*
7 *assistant or representing himself or herself to be a chiropractor’s*
8 *assistant.*

9 2. The court in a proper case may issue an injunction for such
10 purposes without proof of actual damage sustained by any person,
11 this provision being a preventive as well as a punitive measure. The
12 issuance of such an injunction does not relieve the person from
13 criminal prosecution for a violation of NRS 634.227.

