

Subd. 5. **COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the right of the commissioner of health to access the original information, documents, or records acquired by a review organization as permitted by law.

Presented to the governor May 14, 2001

Signed by the governor May 17, 2001, 10:30 a.m.

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### CHAPTER 121—S.F.No. 359

*An act relating to health occupations; modifying licensing requirements for the board of chiropractic examiners; modifying grounds for disciplinary action and penalties; allowing specified individuals to practice chiropractic in this state without being licensed in this state; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, sections 148.06, subdivision 1; 148.10, subdivisions 1 and 3; 148.104; 148.105, subdivision 2; and 148.106, subdivision 10; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.106, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.06, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **LICENSE REQUIRED; QUALIFICATIONS.** No person shall practice chiropractic in this state without first being licensed by the state board of chiropractic examiners. The applicant shall have earned at least one-half of all academic credits required for awarding of a baccalaureate degree from the University of Minnesota, or other university, college, or community college of equal standing, in subject matter determined by the board, and taken a four-year resident course of at least eight months each in a school or college of chiropractic or in a chiropractic program that is fully accredited by the council on chiropractic education or fully accredited by an agency approved by the United States Office of Education or their successors as of January 1, 1988. The board may issue licenses to practice chiropractic without compliance with prechiropractic or academic requirements listed above if in the opinion of the board the applicant has the qualifications equivalent to those required of other applicants, the applicant satisfactorily passes written and practical examinations as required by the board of chiropractic examiners, and the applicant is a graduate of a college of chiropractic with a reciprocal recognition agreement with the council on chiropractic education as of January 1, 1988. The board may recommend a two-year prechiropractic course of instruction to any university, college, or community college which in its judgment would satisfy the academic prerequisite for licensure as established by this section.

An examination for a license shall be in writing and shall include testing in:

(a) The basic sciences including but not limited to anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, pathology, hygiene, and chemistry as related to the human body or mind;

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(b) The clinical sciences including but not limited to the science and art of chiropractic, chiropractic physiotherapy, diagnosis, roentgenology, and nutrition; and

(c) Professional ethics and any other subjects that the board may deem advisable.

The board may consider a valid certificate of examination from the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners as evidence of compliance with the ~~written~~ examination requirements of this subdivision. The applicant shall be required to give practical demonstration in vertebral palpation, neurology, adjusting and any other subject that the board may deem advisable. A license, countersigned by the members of the board and authenticated by the seal thereof, shall be granted to each applicant who correctly answers 75 percent of the questions propounded in each of the subjects required by this subdivision and meets the standards of practical demonstration established by the board. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee set by the board. The fee shall not be returned but the applicant may, within one year, apply for examination without the payment of an additional fee. The board may grant a license to an applicant who holds a valid license to practice chiropractic issued by the appropriate licensing board of another state, provided the applicant meets the other requirements of this section and satisfactorily passes a practical examination approved by the board. The burden of proof is on the applicant to demonstrate these qualifications or satisfaction of these requirements.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.10, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **FOUNDATIONS.** (a) The state board of chiropractic examiners may refuse to grant, or may revoke, suspend, condition, limit, restrict or qualify a license to practice chiropractic, or may cause the name of a person licensed to be removed from the records in the office of the court administrator of the district court for:

(1) Advertising that is false or misleading; that violates a rule of the board; or that claims the cure of any condition or disease.

(2) The employment of fraud or deception in applying for a license or in passing the examination provided for in section 148.06 or conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert the licensing examination process.

(3) The practice of chiropractic under a false or assumed name or the impersonation of another practitioner of like or different name.

(4) The conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude.

(5) The conviction, during the previous five years, of a felony reasonably related to the practice of chiropractic.

(6) Habitual intemperance in the use of alcohol or drugs.

(7) ~~Failure to pay the annual renewal license fee~~ Practicing under a license which has not been renewed.

(8) Advanced physical or mental disability.

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(9) The revocation or suspension of a license to practice chiropractic; or other disciplinary action against the licensee; or the denial of an application for a license by the proper licensing authority of another state, territory or country; or failure to report to the board that charges regarding the person's license have been brought in another state or jurisdiction.

(10) The violation of, or failure to comply with, the provisions of sections 148.01 to 148.105, the rules of the state board of chiropractic examiners, or a lawful order of the board.

(11) Unprofessional conduct.

(12) Being unable to practice chiropractic with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, professional incompetence, senility, drunkenness, use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition, including deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills. If the board has probable cause to believe that a person comes within this clause, it shall direct the person to submit to a mental or physical examination. For the purpose of this clause, every person licensed under this chapter shall be deemed to have given consent to submit to a mental or physical examination when directed in writing by the board and further to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the examining physicians' testimony or examination reports on the ground that the same constitute a privileged communication. Failure of a person to submit to such examination when directed shall constitute an admission of the allegations, unless the failure was due to circumstances beyond the person's control, in which case a default and final order may be entered without the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence. A person affected under this clause shall at reasonable intervals be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that the person can resume the competent practice of chiropractic with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

In addition to ordering a physical or mental examination, the board may, notwithstanding section 13.42, 144.651, or any other law limiting access to health data, obtain health data and health records relating to a licensee or applicant without the licensee's or applicant's consent if the board has probable cause to believe that a doctor of chiropractic comes under this clause. The health data may be requested from a provider, as defined in section 144.335, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), an insurance company, or a government agency, including the department of human services. A provider, insurance company, or government agency shall comply with any written request of the board under this subdivision and is not liable in any action for damages for releasing the data requested by the board if the data are released pursuant to a written request under this subdivision, unless the information is false and the provider or entity giving the information knew, or had reason to believe, the information was false. Information obtained under this subdivision is classified as private under sections 13.01 to 13.87.

In any proceeding under this clause, neither the record of proceedings nor the orders entered by the board shall be used against a person in any other proceeding.

(13) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person in the practice of chiropractic, except that it is not a violation of this clause for a doctor of chiropractic to employ, supervise,

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or delegate functions to a qualified person who may or may not be required to obtain a license or registration to provide health services if that person is practicing within the scope of the license or registration or delegated authority.

(14) Improper management of health records, including failure to maintain adequate health records as described in clause (18), to comply with a patient's request made under section 144.335 or to furnish a health record or report required by law.

(15) Failure to make reports required by section 148.102, subdivisions 2 and 5, or to cooperate with an investigation of the board as required by section 148.104, or the submission of a knowingly false report against another doctor of chiropractic under section 148.10, subdivision 3.

(16) Splitting fees, or promising to pay a portion of a fee or a commission, or accepting a rebate.

(17) Revealing a privileged communication from or relating to a patient, except when otherwise required or permitted by law.

(18) Failing to keep written chiropractic records justifying the course of treatment of the patient, including, but not limited to, patient histories, examination results, test results, and X-rays. Unless otherwise required by law, written records need not be retained for more than seven years and X-rays need not be retained for more than four years.

(19) Exercising influence on the patient or client in such a manner as to exploit the patient or client for financial gain of the licensee or of a third party which shall include, but not be limited to, the promotion or sale of services, goods, or appliances.

(20) Gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice chiropractic at a level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent chiropractor as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances.

(21) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person when the licensee delegating such responsibilities knows or has reason to know that the person is not qualified by training, experience, or licensure to perform them.

(b) For the purposes of paragraph (a), clause (2), conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert the licensing examination process includes, but is not limited to: (1) conduct that violates the security of the examination materials, such as removing examination materials from the examination room or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination; (2) conduct that violates the standard of test administration, such as communicating with another examinee during administration of the examination, copying another examinee's answers, permitting another examinee to copy one's answers, or possessing unauthorized materials; or (3) impersonating an examinee or permitting an impersonator to take the examination on one's own behalf.

(c) For the purposes of paragraph (a), clauses (4) and (5), conviction as used in these subdivisions includes a conviction of an offense that if committed in this state would be deemed a felony without regard to its designation elsewhere, or a criminal

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proceeding where a finding or verdict of guilt is made or returned but the adjudication of guilt is either withheld or not entered.

(d) For the purposes of paragraph (a), clauses (4), (5), and (6), a copy of the judgment or proceeding under seal of the administrator of the court or of the administrative agency which entered the same shall be admissible into evidence without further authentication and shall constitute prima facie evidence of its contents.

(e) For the purposes of paragraph (a), clause (11), unprofessional conduct means any unethical, deceptive or deleterious conduct or practice harmful to the public, any departure from or the failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable chiropractic practice, or a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare or safety of patients, in any of which cases proof of actual injury need not be established. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following acts of a chiropractor:

- (1) gross ignorance of, or incompetence in, the practice of chiropractic;
- (2) engaging in conduct with a patient that is sexual or may reasonably be interpreted by the patient as sexual, or in any verbal behavior that is seductive or sexually demeaning to a patient;
- (3) performing unnecessary services;
- (4) charging a patient an unconscionable fee or charging for services not rendered;
- (5) directly or indirectly engaging in threatening, dishonest, or misleading fee collection techniques;
- (6) perpetrating fraud upon patients, third-party payors, or others, relating to the practice of chiropractic, including violations of the Medicare or Medicaid laws or state medical assistance laws;
- (7) advertising that the licensee will accept for services rendered assigned payments from any third-party payer as payment in full, if the effect is to give the impression of eliminating the need of payment by the patient of any required deductible or copayment applicable in the patient's health benefit plan; or advertising a fee or charge for a service or treatment different from the fee or charge the licensee submits to a third-party payer for that service or treatment. As used in this clause, "advertise" means solicitation by the licensee by means of handbills, posters, circulars, motion pictures, radio, newspapers, television, or in any other manner. In addition to the board's power to punish for violations of this clause, violation of this clause is also a misdemeanor;
- (8) accepting for services rendered assigned payments from any third-party payer as payment in full, if the effect is to eliminate the need of payment by the patient of any required deductible or copayment applicable in the patient's health benefit plan, except as hereinafter provided; or collecting a fee or charge for a service or treatment different from the fee or charge the licensee submits to a third-party payer for that service or treatment, except as hereinafter provided. This clause is intended to prohibit offerings to the public of the above listed practices and those actual practices as well,

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except that in instances where the intent is not to collect an excessive remuneration from the third-party payer but rather to provide services at a reduced rate to a patient unable to afford the deductible or copayment, the services may be performed for a lesser charge or fee. The burden of proof for establishing that this is the case shall be on the licensee; and

(9) any other act that the board by rule may define.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.10, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **REPRIMAND; PENALTIES; PROBATION.** In addition to the other powers granted to the board under this chapter, the board may, in connection with any person whom the board, after a hearing, adjudges unqualified or whom the board, after a hearing, finds to have performed one or more of the acts described in subdivision 1:

- (1) publicly reprimand or censure the person;
- (2) place the person on probation for the period and upon the terms and conditions that the board may prescribe; and
- (3) require payment of all costs of proceedings resulting in the disciplinary action; and

(4) impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000 for each separate violation, the amount of the civil penalty to be fixed so as to deprive the doctor of chiropractic of any economic advantage gained by reason of the violation charged or to reimburse the board for the cost of the investigation and proceeding. For purposes of this section, the cost of the investigation and proceeding may include, but is not limited to, fees paid for services provided by the office of administrative hearings, legal and investigative services provided by the office of the attorney general, court reporters, witnesses, reproduction of records, board members' per diem compensation, board staff time, and travel costs and expenses incurred by board staff and board members.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.104, is amended to read:

#### 148.104 COOPERATION DURING INVESTIGATIONS.

A doctor of chiropractic who is the subject of an investigation by or on behalf of the board shall cooperate fully with the investigation. Cooperation includes appearing at conferences, meetings, or hearings scheduled by the board and for which the board provided notice in accordance with chapter 14; responding fully and promptly to any question raised by or on behalf of the board relating to the subject of the investigation; and providing copies of patient health records, as reasonably requested by the board, to assist the board in its investigation. If the board does not have written consent from a patient allowing the board access to the patient's health records, a doctor of chiropractic shall delete any data in the record which identifies the patient before providing the records to the board.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.105, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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Subd. 2. **EXCEPTIONS.** The following persons shall not be in violation of subdivision 1:

(1) a student practicing under the direct supervision of a preceptor while the student is enrolled in and regularly attending a recognized chiropractic college or chiropractic program; and

(2) a student who is in continuing training and performing the duties of an intern or resident or engaged in postgraduate work considered by the board to be the equivalent of an internship or residency in any institution approved for training by the board;

(3) a doctor of chiropractic licensed in another state or jurisdiction who is in actual consultation in Minnesota;

(4) a doctor of chiropractic licensed in another state or jurisdiction who is in this state for the sole purpose of providing chiropractic services at a competitive athletic event. The doctor of chiropractic may practice chiropractic only on participants in the athletic event;

(5) a doctor of chiropractic licensed in another state or jurisdiction whose duties are entirely of a research, public health, or educational character and while directly engaged in such duties, and who is employed in a scientific, sanitary, or teaching capacity by: (i) an accredited institution; (ii) a public or private school, college, or other bona fide educational institution; (iii) a nonprofit organization which has tax-exempt status in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code, section 501(c)(3), and is organized and operated primarily for the purpose of conducting scientific research; or (iv) the state department of health;

(6) a doctor of chiropractic licensed in another state or jurisdiction who treats the doctor of chiropractic's home state patients or other participating patients while the doctor of chiropractic and those patients are participating together in outdoor recreation in this state as defined by section 86A.03, subdivision 3; and

(7) a person licensed in another state or jurisdiction who is a commissioned officer of, a member of, or employed by the armed forces of the United States, the United States Public Health Service, the Veterans Administration, any federal institution, or any federal agency while engaged in the performance of official duties within this state.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.106, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **CONFIDENTIALITY OF PEER REVIEW RECORDS.** All data and information acquired by the board or the peer review committee before August 1, 2001, in the exercise of its duties and functions in conducting peer reviews before August 1, 2001, shall be subject to the same disclosure and confidentiality protections as provided for data and information of other review organizations under section 145.64. This subdivision does not limit or restrict the board or the peer review committee from fully performing their prescribed peer review duties and functions, nor does it apply to disciplinary and enforcement proceedings under sections 14.57 to

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14.62, 148.10, 148.105, 214.10, and 214.11. The peer review committee shall file with the board a complaint against a health care provider if it determines that reasonable cause exists to believe the health care provider has violated any portion of this chapter or rules adopted under it, for which a licensed chiropractor may be disciplined. The peer review committee shall transmit all complaint information it possesses to the board. The data, information, and records are classified as private data on individuals for purposes of chapter 13. The patient records obtained by the board pursuant to this section must be used solely for the purposes of the board relating to peer review or the disciplinary process.

**Sec. 7. REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 148.106, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, are repealed.

Presented to the governor May 16, 2001

Signed by the governor May 18, 2001, 12:19 p.m.

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**CHAPTER 122—S.F.No. 1821**

**VETOED**

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**CHAPTER 123—S.F.No. 2046**

*An act relating to workers' compensation; making technical changes; requiring interest earned on revenue collected by the special compensation fund to be deposited into the fund; extending a pilot program; providing for payment of various penalties to the commissioner of labor and industry; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, sections 176.042, subdivision 2; 176.102, subdivisions 3a, 11, 14; 176.103, subdivision 3; 176.129, subdivisions 10, 13, by adding a subdivision; 176.1351, subdivision 5; 176.138; 176.1812, subdivision 6; 176.191, subdivision 1a; 176.192; 176.194, subdivision 4; 176.221, subdivisions 1, 3, 3a, 6; 176.231, subdivisions 2, 6, 10; 176.238, subdivision 10; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 176.445.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 176.042, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **EXCEPTION.** An independent contractor, as described in subdivision 1, is not an employee of an employer for whom the independent contractor performs work or services if the independent contractor meets all of the following conditions:

(1) maintains a separate business with the independent contractor's own office, equipment, materials, and other facilities;

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