

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2154

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
05/06/2015	3299	Introduction and first reading Referred to Health, Human Services and Housing
04/07/2016		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary

1.1

A bill for an act

1.2

relating to health; creating licensing for the practice of clinical lactation services;

1.3

establishing fees; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

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Statutes, chapter 148.

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

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Section 1. **[148.9801] SCOPE AND APPLICATION.**

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Subdivision 1. **Scope.** Sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 apply to persons who are

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applicants for licensure, who are licensed, who use the title licensed lactation consultant,

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or who represent that they are licensed under sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

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Subd. 2. **Application.** Nothing in sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 shall prohibit any

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person from providing breastfeeding education and support services, whether or not that

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person is licensed under sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

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Sec. 2. **[148.9802] DEFINITIONS.**

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Subdivision 1. **Application.** For purposes of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813, the

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following terms have the meanings given.

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Subd. 2. **Biennial licensure period.** "Biennial licensure period" means the two-year

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period for which licensure is effective.

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Subd. 3. **Breastfeeding education and support services.** "Breastfeeding

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education and support services" refers to services such as educating women, families,

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health professionals, and the community about the impact of breastfeeding and human

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lactation on health and what to expect in the normal course of breastfeeding; facilitating

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the development of policies that protect, promote, and support breastfeeding; acting as

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an advocate for breastfeeding as the child-feeding norm; providing holistic breastfeeding

support, encouragement, and care from preconception to weaning in order to help women and their families meet their breastfeeding goals; using principles of adult education when teaching clients, health care providers, and others in the community; and identifying and referring high-risk mothers and babies and those requiring clinical treatment to licensed providers. Anyone, with or without a license, may provide breastfeeding education and support services.

Subd. 4. Clinical lactation services. "Clinical lactation services" refers to the clinical application of evidence-based practices for evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education, and consultation in providing lactation care and services to childbearing families. Clinical lactation services involves one or more of the following activities: lactation assessment through the systematic collection of data; analysis of data; creation of lactation care plans; implementation of lactation care plans, including but not limited to providing demonstration and instruction to parents and communicating with the primary health care provider; evaluation of outcomes; and recommending the use of assistive devices when appropriate. Individuals who provide one or more of the services listed in this subdivision are providing clinical lactation services.

Subd. 5. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of health or a designee.

Subd. 6. Credential. "Credential" means a license, permit, certification, registration, or other evidence of qualification or authorization to engage in the practice of clinical lactation services issued by any authority.

Subd. 7. International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. "International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant" means an individual who possesses a credential from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.

Subd. 8. License or licensed. "License" or "licensed" means the act or status of a natural person who meets the requirements of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

Subd. 9. Licensed lactation consultant. "Licensed lactation consultant" means an individual who meets the requirements of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813, is licensed by the commissioner, and is permitted to provide clinical lactation services and use the title of licensed lactation consultant.

Subd. 10. Licensee. "Licensee" means a person who meets the requirements of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

Subd. 11. Licensure by equivalency. "Licensure by equivalency" means a method of licensure described in section 148.9805, paragraph (b), by which an individual who possesses a credential from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners or another nationally recognized credentialing agency may qualify for licensure.

3.1 Subd. 12. **Licensure by reciprocity.** "Licensure by reciprocity" means a method
3.2 of licensure described in section 148.9805, paragraph (c), by which an individual who
3.3 possesses a credential from another jurisdiction may qualify for Minnesota licensure.

3.4 Subd. 13. **Protected title.** "Protected title" means the title of licensed lactation
3.5 consultant.

3.6 Sec. 3. **[148.9803] LICENSURE; PROTECTED TITLES AND RESTRICTIONS**
3.7 **ON USE; EXEMPT PERSONS; SANCTIONS.**

3.8 Subdivision 1. **Unlicensed practice prohibited.** No person shall engage in the
3.9 practice of clinical lactation services unless the person is licensed as a licensed lactation
3.10 consultant in accordance with sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

3.11 Subd. 2. **Protected titles and restrictions on use.** Use of the phrases "licensed
3.12 lactation consultant," "Licensed LC," or "Lic. LC," alone or in combination with any other
3.13 words or initials to form an occupational title or to indicate or imply that the person is
3.14 licensed by the state as a licensed lactation consultant is prohibited unless that person is
3.15 licensed under sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

3.16 Subd. 3. **Exempt persons.** This section does not apply to:

3.17 (1) a person employed as a lactation consultant by the government of the United
3.18 States or any agency of it. However, use of the protected titles under those circumstances is
3.19 allowed only in connection with performance of official duties for the federal government;

3.20 (2) a student participating in supervised fieldwork or supervised coursework that
3.21 is necessary to meet the requirements of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 if the student is
3.22 designated by a title which clearly indicates the student's status as a student trainee. Any
3.23 use of the protected titles under these circumstances is allowed only while the person is
3.24 performing the duties of the supervised fieldwork or supervised coursework;

3.25 (3) a person visiting and then leaving the state and performing clinical lactation
3.26 services while in the state if the services are performed no more than 30 days in a
3.27 calendar year as part of a professional activity that is limited in scope and duration and
3.28 is in association with a licensed lactation consultant licensed under sections 148.9801 to
3.29 148.9813, and:

3.30 (i) the person is credentialed under the law of another state which has credentialing
3.31 requirements at least as stringent as the requirements of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813; or

3.32 (ii) the person meets the requirements for certification as an International
3.33 Board-Certified Lactation Consultant established by the International Board of Lactation
3.34 Consultant Examiners;

(4) a person licensed to practice as a dentist under chapter 150A, physician or osteopath under chapter 147, nurse under sections 148.171 to 148.285, physician assistant under chapter 147A, dietician under sections 148.621 to 148.634, or midwife under chapter 147D, when providing clinical lactation services incidental to the practice of the person's profession, except the person shall not use the protected titles;

(5) an employee of a department, agency, or division of state, county, or local government, when providing clinical lactation services within the discharge of the employee's official duties including, but not limited to, peer counselors in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or

(6) a volunteer providing clinical lactation services, if:

(i) the volunteer does not use the protected titles or represent that the volunteer is licensed or has the clinical skills and abilities associated with licensure;

(ii) the volunteer service is performed for free, with no fee charged to or payment, monetary or otherwise, provided by the individual or group served; and

(iii) the volunteer receives no compensation, monetary or otherwise, except for administrative expenses including, but not limited to, mileage.

Subd. 4. **Sanctions.** A person who practices clinical lactation services or represents that they are a licensed lactation consultant by or through the use of any title described in subdivision 2 without prior licensure according to sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 is subject to sanctions or action against continuing the activity according to section 148.9804, chapter 214, or other statutory authority.

Subd. 5. **Exemption.** Nothing in sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 shall prohibit the practice of any profession or occupation, licensed or registered by the state, by any person duly licensed or registered to practice the profession or occupation or to perform any act that falls within the scope of practice of the profession or occupation.

Sec. 4. [148.9804] PENALTY.

A person who violates sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 is guilty of a misdemeanor. If a person other than a licensed lactation consultant engages in an act or practice prohibited under sections 148.9801 to 148.9813, a district court may issue an injunction or other appropriate order restraining the act or practice.

If the commissioner finds that a licensed lactation consultant has violated the provisions of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813 or rules adopted under those sections, the commissioner may impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000 for each separate violation. The amount of the civil penalty shall be fixed so as to deprive the licensed lactation consultant of any economic advantage gained by reason of the violation charged,

to discourage similar violations, and to reimburse the commissioner for the cost of the investigation and proceeding, including, but 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; services of court reporters; witnesses; and reproduction of records.

Sec. 5. [148.9805] LICENSURE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) An applicant for licensure must comply with the requirements in this section. To qualify for licensure, an applicant must satisfy one of the requirements in paragraphs (b) to (c) and not be subject to denial of licensure under section 148.9812.

(b) A person who is credentialed by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners may apply for licensure by equivalency and must meet the requirements in section 148.9806, subdivision 2.

(c) A person who is credentialed in another jurisdiction may apply for licensure by reciprocity and must meet the requirements in section 148.9806, subdivision 3.

Sec. 6. [148.9806] APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS; PROCEDURE.

Subdivision 1. **Application for licensure.** An applicant for licensure must:

(1) have a current credential from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners or another jurisdiction whose standards for credentialing are determined by the commissioner to be equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure under subdivision 2;

(2) submit a completed application for licensure on forms provided by the commissioner and supply the information requested on the application, including:

(i) the applicant's name, business address, business telephone number, business setting, and daytime telephone number;

(ii) a description of the applicant's education and training, including a list of degrees received from educational institutions;

(iii) the applicant's work history for the six years preceding the application, including the number of hours worked;

(iv) a list of all credentials currently and previously held in Minnesota and other jurisdictions;

(v) a description of any jurisdiction's refusal to credential the applicant;

(vi) a description of all professional disciplinary actions initiated against the applicant in any jurisdiction;

(vii) information on any physical or mental condition or chemical dependency that impairs the applicant's ability to provide clinical lactation services with reasonable judgment or safety;

(viii) a description of any misdemeanor or felony conviction that relates to honesty or to the practice of clinical lactation services; and

(ix) a description of any state or federal court order, including a conciliation court order or a disciplinary order, related to the individual's clinical lactation services practice;

(3) submit with the application all fees required by section 148.9811;

(4) sign a statement that the information in the application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief;

(5) sign a waiver authorizing the commissioner to obtain access to the applicant's records in this or any other state in which the applicant holds or previously held a credential for the practice of an occupation, completed a clinical lactation services education program, or engaged in the practice of clinical lactation services;

(6) within 30 days of a request, submit additional information as requested by the commissioner to clarify information in the application, including information to determine whether the individual has engaged in conduct warranting disciplinary action under section 148.9812; and

(7) submit the additional information required for licensure by equivalency or licensure by reciprocity.

Subd. 2. Applicants credentialed by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. An applicant who is credentialed by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners as an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant may be eligible for licensure by equivalency as a licensed lactation consultant. Nothing in this section limits the commissioner's authority to deny licensure based upon the grounds for discipline in section 148.9812. Applicants under this subdivision must provide the materials required in subdivision 1 and must also provide:

(1) verified documentation from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners stating that the applicant is credentialed as an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. The applicant is responsible for obtaining this documentation; and

(2) a waiver authorizing the commissioner to obtain access to the applicant's records maintained by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.

Subd. 3. Applicants credentialed in another jurisdiction. (a) An applicant who holds a current credential as a licensed lactation consultant in the District of Columbia or a state or territory of the United States whose standards for credentialing are determined by the commissioner to be equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure under

subdivision 2, may be eligible for licensure by reciprocity as a licensed lactation consultant. Nothing in this section limits the commissioner's authority to deny licensure based upon the grounds for discipline in section 148.9812.

(b) Applicants under this subdivision must provide the materials required in subdivision 1 and must also request that the appropriate government body in each jurisdiction in which the applicant holds or held credentials as a licensed lactation consultant or substantially similar title send a letter to the commissioner verifying the applicant's credentials. A license shall not be issued until the commissioner receives a letter verifying each of the applicant's credentials. Each letter must include the applicant's name and date of birth, credential number and date of issuance, a statement regarding investigations pending and disciplinary actions taken or pending against the applicant, current status of the credential, and the terms under which the credential was issued.

Subd. 4. **Action on applications for licensure.** (a) The commissioner shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny licensure. The commissioner shall act on an application for licensure according to paragraphs (b) to (d).

(b) The commissioner shall determine if the applicant meets the requirements for licensure. The commissioner, or the advisory council at the commissioner's request, may investigate information provided by an applicant to determine whether the information is accurate and complete.

(c) The commissioner shall notify an applicant of action taken on the application and, if licensure is denied or approved with conditions, the grounds for the commissioner's determination.

(d) An applicant denied licensure or granted licensure with conditions may make a written request to the commissioner, within 30 days of the date of the commissioner's determination, for reconsideration of the commissioner's determination. Individuals requesting reconsideration may submit information which the applicant wants considered in the reconsideration. After reconsideration of the commissioner's determination to deny licensure or grant licensure with conditions, the commissioner shall determine whether the original determination should be affirmed or modified. An applicant is allowed no more than one request in any one biennial licensure period for reconsideration of the commissioner's determination to deny licensure or approve licensure with conditions.

Sec. 7. **[148.9807] LICENSURE RENEWAL.**

Subdivision 1. **Renewal requirements.** To be eligible for licensure renewal, a licensee must:

(1) submit a completed and signed application for licensure renewal on forms provided by the commissioner;

(2) submit the renewal fee required under section 148.9811;

(3) submit proof that the licensee is currently credentialed by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, or another jurisdiction as described in section 148.9806; and

(4) submit additional information as requested by the commissioner to clarify information presented in the renewal application. The information must be submitted within 30 days after the commissioner's request.

Subd. 2. **Renewal deadline.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c), licenses must be renewed every two years. Licensees must comply with the procedures in paragraphs (b) to (e).

(b) Each license must state an expiration date. An application for licensure renewal must be received by the Department of Health at least 30 calendar days before the expiration date.

(c) If the commissioner changes the renewal schedule and the new expiration date is less than two years in the future, the fee to be reported at the next renewal must be prorated.

(d) An application for licensure renewal not received within the time required under paragraph (b), but received on or before the expiration date, must be accompanied by a late fee in addition to the renewal fee specified in section 148.9811.

(e) Licensure renewals received after the expiration date shall not be accepted and persons seeking licensed status must comply with the requirements of section 148.9808.

Subd. 3. **Licensure renewal notice.** At least 60 calendar days before the expiration date in subdivision 2, the commissioner shall notify the licensee. The notice must include an application for licensure renewal and notice of fees required for renewal. The licensee's failure to receive notice does not relieve the licensee of the obligation to meet the renewal deadline and other requirements for licensure renewal.

Sec. 8. [148.9808] LICENSURE RENEWAL; AFTER EXPIRATION DATE.

An individual whose application for licensure renewal is received after the licensure expiration date must submit the following:

(1) a completed and signed application for licensure following lapse in licensed status on forms provided by the commissioner;

(2) the renewal fee and the late fee required under section 148.9811;

9.1 (3) proof that the licensee is currently credentialed by the International Board of
9.2 Lactation Consultant Examiners, or another jurisdiction as described in section 148.9806;
9.3 and

9.4 (4) additional information as requested by the commissioner to clarify information in
9.5 the application, including information to determine whether the individual has engaged in
9.6 conduct warranting disciplinary action as set forth in section 148.9812. This information
9.7 must be submitted within 30 days after the commissioner's request.

9.8 **Sec. 9. [148.9809] CHANGE OF NAME, ADDRESS, OR EMPLOYMENT.**

9.9 A licensee who changes a name, address, or employment must inform the
9.10 commissioner, in writing, of the change of name, address, employment, business address,
9.11 or business telephone number within 30 days. A change in name must be accompanied by
9.12 a copy of a marriage certificate or court order. All notices or other correspondence mailed
9.13 to or served on a licensee by the commissioner at the licensee's address on file with the
9.14 commissioner shall be considered as having been received by the licensee.

9.15 **Sec. 10. [148.9810] RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION.**

9.16 Subdivision 1. **Required notification.** In the absence of a physician referral or
9.17 prior authorization, and before providing clinical lactation services for remuneration or
9.18 expectation of payment from the client, a licensed lactation consultant must provide the
9.19 following written notification in all capital letters of 12-point or larger boldface type to
9.20 the client, parent, or guardian: "Your health care provider, insurer, or plan may require a
9.21 physician referral or prior authorization and you may be obligated for partial or full payment
9.22 for clinical lactation services rendered." Information other than this notification may be
9.23 included as long as the notification remains conspicuous on the face of the document. A
9.24 nonwritten disclosure format may be used to satisfy the recipient notification requirement
9.25 when necessary to accommodate the physical condition of a client or client's guardian.

9.26 Subd. 2. **Evidence of recipient notification.** The licensed lactation consultant
9.27 is responsible for providing evidence of compliance with the recipient notification
9.28 requirement of this section.

9.29 **Sec. 11. [148.9811] FEES.**

9.30 Subdivision 1. **Initial licensure fee.** The initial licensure fee for licensed lactation
9.31 consultants is \$80. The commissioner shall prorate fees based on the number of quarters
9.32 remaining in the biennial licensure period.

10.1 Subd. 2. **Licensure renewal fee.** The biennial licensure renewal fee for licensed
10.2 lactation consultants is \$80.

10.3 Subd. 3. **Duplicate license fee.** The fee for a duplicate license is \$25.

10.4 Subd. 4. **Late fee.** The fee for late submission of a renewal application is \$25.

10.5 Subd. 5. **Verification to other states.** The fee for verification of licensure to other
10.6 states is \$25.

10.7 Subd. 6. **Use of fees.** All fees are nonrefundable. Fees collected under this section
10.8 shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the state government special revenue
10.9 fund for the purposes of administering sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

10.10 Subd. 7. **Penalty fee.** (a) The penalty for using the protected title of licensed
10.11 lactation consultant without a current license after the credential has expired and before it
10.12 is renewed is the amount of the license renewal fee for any part of the first month, plus the
10.13 license renewal fee for any part of any subsequent month up to 36 months.

10.14 (b) The penalty for applicants who use the protected title of licensed lactation
10.15 consultant before being issued a license is the amount of the license application fee for
10.16 any part of the first month, plus the license application fee for any part of any subsequent
10.17 month up to 36 months.

10.18 (c) For conduct described in paragraph (a) or (b) exceeding six months, payment of a
10.19 penalty does not preclude any disciplinary action reasonably justified by the individual case.

10.20 Sec. 12. **[148.9812] GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE OR DENIAL OF**
10.21 **LICENSURE; INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES; DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.**

10.22 Subdivision 1. **Grounds for discipline or denial of licensure.** The commissioner
10.23 may deny an application for licensure, may approve licensure with conditions, or may
10.24 discipline a licensee using any disciplinary action listed in subdivision 3 on proof that
10.25 the individual has:

10.26 (1) intentionally submitted false or misleading information to the commissioner
10.27 or the advisory council;

10.28 (2) failed, within 30 days, to provide information in response to a written request
10.29 by the commissioner or advisory council;

10.30 (3) performed services of a licensed lactation consultant in an incompetent manner
10.31 or in a manner that falls below the community standard of care;

10.32 (4) violated a provision of sections 148.9801 to 148.9813;

10.33 (5) aided or abetted another person in violating a provision of sections 148.9801 to
10.34 148.9813;

11.1 (6) failed to perform services with reasonable judgment, skill, or safety due to the
11.2 use of alcohol or drugs, or other physical or mental impairment;

11.3 (7) been convicted of violating any state or federal law, rule, or regulation which
11.4 directly relates to the practice of clinical lactation services;

11.5 (8) been disciplined for conduct in the practice of an occupation by the state of
11.6 Minnesota, another jurisdiction, or a national professional association, if any of the
11.7 grounds for discipline are the same or substantially equivalent to those in sections
11.8 148.9801 to 148.9813;

11.9 (9) not cooperated with the commissioner or advisory council in an investigation
11.10 conducted according to subdivision 2;

11.11 (10) advertised in a manner that is false or misleading;

11.12 (11) engaged in dishonest, unethical, or unprofessional conduct in connection with the
11.13 practice of clinical lactation services that is likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public;

11.14 (12) demonstrated a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety
11.15 of a client;

11.16 (13) performed medical diagnosis or provided treatment without being licensed to
11.17 do so under the laws of this state;

11.18 (14) paid or promised to pay a commission or part of a fee to any person who
11.19 contacts the licensed lactation consultant for consultation or sends patients to the licensed
11.20 lactation consultant for treatment;

11.21 (15) engaged in abusive or fraudulent billing practices, including violations of
11.22 federal Medicare and Medicaid laws, Food and Drug Administration regulations, or state
11.23 medical assistance laws;

11.24 (16) obtained money, property, or services from a consumer through the use of
11.25 undue influence, high-pressure sales tactics, harassment, duress, deception, or fraud;

11.26 (17) performed services for a client who had no possibility of benefiting from the
11.27 services;

11.28 (18) failed to refer a client for medical evaluation when appropriate or when a client
11.29 indicated symptoms associated with diseases that could be medically or surgically treated;

11.30 (19) engaged in conduct with a client that is sexual, or may reasonably be interpreted
11.31 by the client as sexual, or in any verbal behavior that is seductive or sexually demeaning
11.32 to a client;

11.33 (20) violated a federal or state court order, including a conciliation court judgment,
11.34 or a disciplinary order issued by the commissioner, related to the person's clinical lactation
11.35 services practice; or

11.36 (21) any other just cause related to the practice of clinical lactation services.

12.1 Subd. 2. **Investigation of complaints.** The commissioner, or the advisory council
12.2 when authorized by the commissioner, may initiate an investigation upon receiving a
12.3 complaint or other oral or written communication that alleges or implies that a person has
12.4 violated sections 148.9801 to 148.9813. In the receipt, investigation, and hearing of a
12.5 complaint that alleges or implies that a person has violated sections 148.9801 to 148.9813,
12.6 the commissioner shall follow the procedures in section 214.10.

12.7 Subd. 3. **Disciplinary action.** If the commissioner finds that a licensed lactation
12.8 consultant should be disciplined according to subdivision 1, the commissioner may take
12.9 any one or more of the following actions:

- 12.10 (1) refuse to grant or renew licensure;
12.11 (2) approve licensure with conditions;
12.12 (3) revoke licensure;
12.13 (4) suspend licensure;
12.14 (5) any reasonable lesser action including, but not limited to, reprimand or restriction
12.15 on licensure; or
12.16 (6) any action authorized by statute.

12.17 Subd. 4. **Effect of specific disciplinary action on use of title.** Upon notice from
12.18 the commissioner denying licensure renewal or upon notice that disciplinary actions have
12.19 been imposed and the person is no longer entitled to provide clinical lactation services and
12.20 use the protected title of licensed lactation consultant, the person shall cease to provide
12.21 clinical lactation services, to use the title protected by sections 148.9801 to 148.9813, and
12.22 to represent to the public that the person is licensed by the commissioner.

12.23 Subd. 5. **Reinstatement requirements after disciplinary action.** A person who
12.24 has had licensure suspended may request and provide justification for reinstatement
12.25 following the period of suspension specified by the commissioner. The requirements
12.26 of section 148.9808 for renewing licensure and any other conditions imposed with the
12.27 suspension must be met before licensure may be reinstated.

12.28 Subd. 6. **Authority to contract.** The commissioner shall contract with the health
12.29 professionals services program as authorized by sections 214.31 to 214.37 to provide these
12.30 services to practitioners under sections 148.9801 to 148.9813. The health professionals
12.31 services program does not affect the commissioner's authority to discipline violations of
12.32 sections 148.9801 to 148.9813.

12.33 **Sec. 13. [148.9813] STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**

12.34 The commissioner shall work with community stakeholders in Minnesota
12.35 including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition; the women,

13.1 infants, and children program; hospitals and clinics; local public health professionals
13.2 and organizations; community-based organizations; and representatives of populations
13.3 with low breastfeeding rates to carry out a study identifying barriers, challenges, and
13.4 successes affecting initiation, duration, and exclusivity of breastfeeding. The study
13.5 shall address policy, systemic, and environmental factors that both support and create
13.6 barriers to breastfeeding. These factors include, but are not limited to, issues such as
13.7 levels of practice and barriers such as education, clinical experience, and cost to those
13.8 seeking certification as an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. The study
13.9 shall identify and make recommendations regarding culturally appropriate practices that
13.10 have been shown to increase breastfeeding rates in populations that have the greatest
13.11 breastfeeding disparity rates. A report on the study must be completed and submitted to
13.12 the commissioner on or before September 15, 2016.