

STORAGE NAME: h1467.hcl

DATE: March 4, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 1467 (PCB HCL 99-03)

RELATING TO: Regulation of Health Care Practitioners

SPONSOR(S): Committee on Health Care Licensing and Regulation and Representative Fasano & others

COMPANION BILL(S): HB 669(c), HB 319(c)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

HB 1467 relates to the various health care practitioners of the Department of Health. It makes a number of mostly technical changes and correction of obsolete language to ch. 455, F.S., and the various practice acts of the approximately 37 professions regulated by the department.

The professions included in this bill are: acupuncture; medicine; osteopathic medicine; chiropractic medicine; podiatric medicine; nursing; pharmacy; dentistry; midwifery; athletic trainers; speech-language pathology and audiology; dietetics and nutrition; orthotics and prosthetics; electrolysis; clinical laboratory personnel; medical physicists; opticianry; physical therapy; psychology; clinical social work, marriage and family therapy; and mental health counseling.

Chapter 455, F.S., is the administrative chapter that applies to all medical "health care practitioners" contained in the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) within the Department of Health. Among the more substantive changes to ch. 455 F.S., is the establishment of a uniform definition for sexual misconduct and its prohibition. Other changes expand the opportunity for regulatory boards to discipline practitioners for certain violations such as: sexual misconduct; failing to comply with the requirements of profiling and credentialing; emergency suspension of their license for testing positive for drugs or illegal drugs without a legitimate medical reason for such drug; failing to inform patients about their rights; and clarifies that business establishments regulated by MQA are required to maintain an active business license.

A number of mostly technical changes or correction of obsolete language were made to the various practice acts. See the Effects Section for more details on the various changes by profession. Many of the technical/obsolete changes were the result of computerized testing and changes in educational or experience requirements. A number of fine caps for disciplinary actions were increased in several professions.

The Department of Health states that this bill will have minimal fiscal impact on the State, and none on local government, or the private sector in general.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

GENERAL PROVISIONS - CHAPTER 455, F.S.

Chapter 455, Part II, Florida Statutes, is the administrative chapter that applies to all medical "health care practitioners" contained in the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) within the Department of Health.

The present status of the following sections of ch. 455, Florida Statutes, is listed:

455.501 - This section is suppose to list all of the various medical professions. However, through oversight and because various professions have been added to the Division without being added to the section, the following "health care practitioners" are not included: certified nursing assistants; midwives; nursing home administrators; athletic trainers; orthotists; prosthetists and pedorthetists; electrologists; clinical laboratory personnel; or medical physicists. While all these professions are regulated under MQA, because they are not listed in this definition, technically none of the provisions of Ch. 455 currently apply to these professions.

455.564 - Authority to grant continuing education credits for attending risk management courses, disciplinary portions of board meetings, or for serving as a volunteer expert witness or member of a probable cause panel is limited to only four boards named in this section (medical, osteopathic, chiropractic, and podiatric). Other boards in MQA have requested this authority.

455.565 - Required profiling information is unclear as to whether practitioners (medical, osteopathic, chiropractic, and podiatric) are to report the year they began practicing in Florida or the year they began practice in any jurisdiction.

455.567 - This section allows the department or boards to refuse to license applicants for examination or licensure if they have committed an act of sexual misconduct or had a license in another jurisdiction revoked or surrendered based on a violation of sexual misconduct. However, this section does not have a definition for sexual misconduct which has made it difficult to implement.

455.574 - Examination services do not have the authority to restrict a candidate's access to only the incorrect answers when the candidate asks for a review of his or her score. This causes security and confidentiality problems.

455.587 - MQA does not currently have the authority to charge a fee to recoup its costs when printing a duplicate wall certificate or a wall certificate for a practitioner licensed prior to July 1, 1998.

455.604 - Licensees under Part X, Ch. 468 (dietetics and nutrition), are not currently required to complete a continuing education course on human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome for licensure renewal.

455.607 - Licensed athletic trainers are not currently required to complete a course on human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome for licensure renewal.

455.624 - MQA has been unsuccessful in prosecuting cases against licensees because they lack authority "as grounds for discipline" in the following situations: failure to provide patients with information about their patient rights and how to file a complaint; attempting to engage or engaging a patient of a client in verbal or physical sexual activity; failure to comply with the requirements of profiling and credentialing; or failure to report within 30 days a conviction or adjudication of a crime in any jurisdiction.

Also, the present cap of a \$5,000 fine per count for violations of ch. 455 is not felt to be punitive enough in some disciplinary situations.

455.654 - Currently deals with financial arrangements between referring health care providers and providers of health care services. It defines a health care provider as any one licensed under chs.

458, 459, 460, 461, 463, or 466. It also provides a number of exceptions (12) to the definition of referrals. Services such as: by a radiologist for an MIR; by a physician specializing in radiation therapy services; by a provider for diagnostic laboratory services related to renal dialysis; and by a nephrologist for renal dialysis services and supplies, to name a few of the exceptions.

455.667 - Provides for the ownership and control of patient records. In certain instances, the department may obtain patient records and insurance records if a complaint has been filed alleging inadequate medical care based on termination of insurance. In the course of their investigations, the department has determined that the patient's billing records are needed to determine if fraud has been committed. However, the department has had difficulty obtaining these records in the past. The keeper of the records maintain that the department is only entitled to patient records, and that billing records are not part of these records.

455.687 - The department states that they currently have no authority to suspend, on an emergency basis, any practitioner who tests positive on a drug screen conducted for purposes of employment.

455.694 - Currently deals with financial responsibility for a selected number of professions (acupuncture, dentistry, advanced registered nurse practitioner, and chiropractic and podiatric medicine). Midwives are not currently required to comply with financial responsibility laws.

455.712 - Currently, business establishments licensed under the various MQA chapters are not required to meet the same conditions as practitioners in maintaining active status licenses or held to the same disciplinary standards.

Section 381.0261, F.S., deals with the Florida Patient's Bill of Rights. It provides for a health care practitioner or a health care facility to provide upon request by a patient, a summary of their rights, pursuant to this section. Currently, the responsibility for enforcement of these provisions rests with the Agency for Health Care Administration. MQA has no enforcement responsibility for these requirements with health care practitioners.

ACUPUNCTURE - CHAPTER 457, F.S.

Currently, there is no approval process, registration, or regulation of visiting faculty who wish to teach, demonstrate or lecture in the arena of professional acupuncture education. Many other professions currently have provision for faculty permits or licenses.

MEDICINE - CHAPTER 458, F.S.

The current definition of the "practice of medicine" does not encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription as the medical director of an institution, program, health plan, or insurer. The Board of Medicine maintains there is no accountability to the Board of Medicine under its standards by these individuals for the practice of medicine. It is silent as to whether or not the practice of medicine includes coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits.

Current law requires all applicants for testing to apply to the Board of Medicine. However, as of 1999, all medical examinations will be given by the Federation of State Medical Boards and the applications are to be submitted to the Federation and not the various states. Also, effective January 1, 2000, only applicants for licensure who have passed all parts of the USMLE examination will be accepted for licensure. The examination requirement section of the medical practice act needs conforming to the existing requirements of national medical examinations and removal of obsolete language.

The endorsement requirement section in ch. 458 needs conformation to the current requirements of the national medical examinations and contains obsolete language. Effective January 1, 2000, only applicants for licensure who have passed all parts of the USMLE examination will be accepted for licensure by endorsement.

Current law as it relates to the issuance of temporary licenses provides that each time a licensee wants to move between areas of critical need, they must make an application of the Board of Medicine for approval. There has been an expressed need for portability of a temporary certificate

for practice in areas of critical need instead of requiring re-licensure whenever a practitioner moves from one locale to another.

Current law requires a full application and review process before a licensee with an active license may convert it to a limited license.(part-time/retirement). There is a need for a simple conversion of a full license to a limited license under certain conditions without a lengthy re-application and certification process.

The Board of Medicine does not currently have the authority to discipline a licensee for failure to comply with the law regarding patient rights. Also, the current cap is a \$5,000 fine per count for disciplinary offenses. This has been in effect for a long period and it is felt by the board that the cap of a \$5,000 fine per count for disciplinary offenses is not punitive enough for some situations, such as cases of egregious fraud.

There is currently no statutory time limit on a temporary license issued to a physician assistant under ch. 458. Also, the current law requires a practical examination as a component of the licensure examination for physician assistants.

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE - CHAPTER 459, F.S.

The current definition of the "practice of medicine" does not encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription as the medical director of an institution, program, health plan, or insurer. The Board of Osteopathic Medicine maintains there is no accountability to the board under its standards by these individuals for the practice of medicine. It is silent as to whether or not the practice of osteopathic medicine includes coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits.

Current law requires a full application and review process before a licensee with an active license may convert it to a limited license (part-time/retirement). There is a need for a simple conversion of a full license to a limited license under certain conditions without a lengthy re-application and certification process.

The Board of Osteopathic Medicine does not currently have the authority to discipline a licensee for failure to comply with the law regarding patient rights. Also, the current cap is a \$5,000 fine per count for disciplinary offenses. This has been in effect for a long period and it is felt that the cap of a \$5,000 fine per count for disciplinary offenses is not punitive enough for some situations, such as cases of egregious fraud.

CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE - CHAPTER 460, F.S.

In the past, the Board of Chiropractic Medicine had established rules for the qualifications and procedures of a supervising physician. However, these rules were determined to exceed the board's authority. The board is of the opinion that the law should be changed to grant them the authority to establish rules for the qualifications and procedures of a supervising physician.

Also, the board may not fine a licensee more than \$2,000 per count in any disciplinary case, even in such cases as egregious fraud.

PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CHAPTER 461, F.S.

Currently, podiatric X-ray assistants are not regulated under the Board of Podiatric Medicine. They are certified under the provisions of a different chapter of law and by a different division of the Department of Health. There are no requirements or practice guidelines specified in the podiatric medicine practice act for the use of X-ray machines by podiatric X-ray assistants. They are currently certified under ch. 468, part IV, F.S., relating to radiologic technology. Section 468.307, F.S., does not contain any provision for the department to establish by rule a subcategory of a certificate limiting the holder to a specific procedure or specified type of equipment.

The licensure requirements for podiatric medicine presently does not have any provisions to require that an applicant has been actively training, teaching, or practicing within a certain time frame before licensure. There is no definition of "actively practiced of podiatric medicine". In

some instances, this prevents the board from denying licensure to an applicant who has been out of active practice for many years.

Also, the Board of Podiatric Medicine does not have authority to discipline licensees who violate the patient's rights law. The board can not impose more than a \$1,000 fine per count for disciplinary offenses, no matter how serious the violation.

NURSING - CHAPTER 464, F. S.

There is currently no limit on the number of times an applicant may take the nursing licensure examination or authority for the board to establish by rule, guidelines, or conditions for re-training in the event of failure.

The definition of the practice of nursing does not encompass those individuals who may be enrolled in remedial courses in order to be approved for examination.

PHARMACY - CHAPTER 465, F.S.

There is currently no definition in the pharmacy statute for a "data communication device" as used in a pharmacy setting.

The return of unit-dose prescriptions in institutions do not currently encompass pharmacies located in correctional facilities. Also, the pharmacy practice act does not make provision for disciplining licensees who do not protect the confidentiality of patients' records. The board may not fine more than \$1,000 per disciplinary offense, no matter how serious the violation.

Also, the present law is unclear as to who owns the records maintained in a pharmacy and does not specify the conditions under which those records may be released by a patient to other parties. There is no prohibition on the use of records obtained through data communication devices.

DENTISTRY - CHAPTER 466, F.S.

Work orders for use by unlicensed personnel to perform dental laboratory services are now required to be on a form approved by the department. This form must be supplied to the dentists by the department at a cost not to exceed that of printing and handling.

The current definition of the "practice of dentistry" does not encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It is silent as to whether or not the practice of dentistry includes coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY - CHAPTER 468, PART I, F.S.

Currently, there are two avenues for licensure. One avenue is to meet the requirements of the practice act. The second avenue or exception is through the Department of Education, which expires on January 1, 2000. After this date, there will only be one licensure procedure, which will provide for uniform licensure.

The current law only requires a master's degree with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology. However, the University of Florida has a program that does not offer a master's degree, only a doctoral degree. There is currently confusion as to whether or not they will comply with the letter of the law.

Also, the board may certify certain persons who meet specific criteria as a speech-language pathology assistant, or as an audiology assistant. While its not clear, the Department of Education has requested that the statutory language reflect the reality that these applicants must obtain a bachelor's degree.

DIETITIANS & NUTRITIONISTS - CHAPTER 468, PART X, F.S.

The practice act for dietitians and nutritionists does not currently define sexual misconduct. This makes it extremely difficult to prosecute a licensee for a violation.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS - CHAPTER 468, PART XIII, F.S.

There is currently a Council of Athletic Training composed of seven members reporting to the department. Four of the council members are required to be athletic trainers, one member a physician licensed under ch. 460, a physician licensed under either chapter 458 or 459 and one consumer member. The council is to advise and assist the department in regulating this profession.

ORTHOTICS, PROSTHETICS, & PEDORTHICS - CHAPTER 468, PART XIV, F.S.

A new Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics was created in 1997, to regulate this profession. A March 1, 1998, date was provided to grandfather in certain professionals who were currently practicing or in the process of becoming certified to practice this profession. Provision was provided to either issue a license or a provisional license based on the qualifications of these individuals.

ELECTROLYSIS - CHAPTER 478, F.S.

Electrolysis has an advisory council that makes recommendations to the Board of Medicine which actually regulates this profession. Electrolysis or electrology means the permanent removal of hair using needle type epilation devices that are registered with the United States Food and Drug Administration. These devices are used pursuant to protocols approved by the council and the board. Recently, new types of devices have become available that no longer fit the above definition. The board wants to change s. 478.42, F.S. to reflect this new type of equipment and clarify the approved equipment that may be used in the practice of electrology.

CLINICAL LABORATORIES - CHAPTER 483, PART I, F.S.

Clinical laboratories are regulated by the Agency for Health Care Administration. Clinical laboratory personnel are regulated by the Department of Health. They are classified as health care practitioners. Section 483.041, F.S., provides definitions for clinical laboratories, but the definition of clinical laboratory services is not provided in much detail. An expansion of this definition would benefit regulation of this service.

CLINICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL - CHAPTER 483, PART III, F.S.

Sections 483.800 through 483.828, F.S., provide for the regulation of clinical laboratory personnel. A number of the provisions for applications and renewal fees for laboratory training need clarification. The Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel needs rule-making authority to designate approved certification examinations. The annual registration of clinical laboratory trainees is onerous and unnecessary according to the department. The current requirements for public health laboratory scientists restrict the number of applicants that may qualify for licensure as laboratory scientists in public health.

Also, the board does not have rule-making authority to impose remedial training on failed applicants.

State requirements for licensure of laboratory directors do not necessarily conform to federal standards. In addition, the board lacks the authority to discipline for criminal convictions under the same provisions as other boards in MQA. Much of the language in one section (483.825), does not conform to provisions similar to those of other regulatory boards.

MEDICAL PHYSICS - CHAPTER 483, PART IV, F.S.

Medical physics have been regulated by the state for approximately four years. The law that initially provided for their regulation could not be implemented because of several technical difficulties. It was recently discovered that s. 483.901, F.S., provides for the department to issue a

temporary license for an indefinite period. The department needs to delete the authority to issue a temporary license for an indefinite time period.

OPTICIANS - CHAPTER 484, PART I, F.S.

Currently, s. 484.007, F.S., provides no guidance as to the experience required prior to an optician being able to supervise an optician trainee. Without any guidance, a newly licensed optician can supervise trainees immediately. The board is of the opinion that additional experience is necessary prior to the supervision of a trainee.

FITTING/DISPENSING OF HEARING AIDS - CHAPTER 484, PART II, F.S.

Current statutes provide a 30-day trial period in which the purchase of a hearing aid may be returned for a full refund. However, there are many instances reported where the refund is not made in a prompt manner. It has been suggested that the period for a refund should mirror language that speech-language pathology and audiology have in their practice act. It requires a refund within 30 days of the return or attempted return of the hearing aid.

PHYSICAL THERAPY - CHAPTER 486, F.S.

Currently, the Board of Physical Therapy issues a temporary license as a physical therapist or for a physical therapist assistant. Because the board has recently changed to computer- based testing, there is no longer a need to issue temporary licenses.

PSYCHOLOGY - CHAPTER 490, F.S.

To become licensed as a psychologist in Florida, an applicant must meet various requirements which include graduation from a school with a psychology program accredited by an agency recognized and approved by the United States Department of Education. It also the definition applied to education received prior to July 1, 1999. However, a provision was passed last year which provided that an applicant could submit to the board prior to July 1, 2001, that the applicant was enrolled and graduated from a school, not accredited, but with a standard of education and training comparable to programs accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The comparability was to be determined by the board.

Also, a psychologist licensed in another state may become licensed in Florida by endorsement provided the requirements in the other state were substantially equivalent to those of Florida, or the psychologist is a diplomate in good standing with the American Board of Professional Psychology, Inc.

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, & MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING - CHAPTER 491, F.S.

The current statute provides that effective January 1, 1998, any individual who intends to practice in Florida to satisfy postgraduate or post-master's level experience requirements, must register (with the board) as an intern in the profession for which they are seeking licensure prior to beginning such experience. Also, such individual must be certified by the board that they have met certain other requirements.

Section 491.0045, F.S., provides certain educational requirements for clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and marriage and family therapists.

Section 491.0046, F.S., provides that any individual who has satisfied the clinical experience requirements and is applying for licensure by examination or endorsement intending to provide clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling services in Florida must have a provisional license while satisfying the examination requirements. The provisional license must be obtained prior to beginning practice.

Subsection (4) of s. 491.005, F.S., as passed last year, changes the educational requirements for licensure as a mental health counselor effective January 1, 2001. The board needs rule

promulgation authority for administering the new requirements for licensure of mental health counselors.

Pursuant to the requirements of s. 491.0085, F.S., the board is now required to give laws and rules examinations four times a year. The law does not currently allow the providers of laws and rules courses to test licensees upon completion of the courses.

The exemptions contained in s. 491.014, F.S., provides that a nonlicensed person may perform services authorized in this chapter no more than 5 days in any month, and no more than 15 days in any calendar year.

FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES - SECTIONS 626.883 and 641.316, F. S.

Effective January 1, 1999, all fiscal intermediaries were required to meet certain bond requirements and register with the Department of Insurance. The current requirements for a fiscal intermediary do not include any provisions relating to an explanation of benefits for payments to a health care provider. These payments are usually the result of contracts with health maintenance organizations.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The following is a listing of the major provisions of the bill.

GENERAL PROVISIONS - CHAPTER 455, F.S.

Establishes a uniform definition for sexual misconduct and its prohibition.

Expands the opportunity for regulatory boards to discipline practitioners for certain violations: sexual misconduct; failing to comply with the requirements of profiling and credentialing; testing positive for drugs or illegal drugs without a legitimate medical reason for such drug; and failing to inform patients about their rights.

Clarifies that business establishments regulated by MQA are required to maintain an active business license.

Expands the definitions in s. 455.667, F.S., to provide that in certain instances, the department may obtain patient records, billing records, and insurance records without patient consent if a complaint has been filed alleging inadequate medical care, fraud, kickbacks, etc., and certain conditions are met.

ACUPUNCTURE - CHAPTER 457, F.S.

Provides for acupuncture teaching permits and allows faculty from other countries and states to teach in schools in Florida, for a period of up to 12 months, without a Florida license.

MEDICINE - CHAPTER 458, F.S.

Expands the current definition of the "practice of medicine" to encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It does not include coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits, as long as medical judgments are not involved.

Specifies that individuals possessing temporary licenses to practice in areas of critical need may use work for approved employers in any area of critical need without getting approval for each area.

Establishes authority to convert active licenses to limited licenses for retirement/volunteer practice without making a full application and meeting the other requirements. The licenses are free if the licensee receives no compensation.

Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$5,000 per violation to \$10,000.

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE - CHAPTER 459, F.S.

Expands the current definition of the "practice of osteopathic medicine" to encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It does not include coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits, as long as medical judgments are not involved.

Specifies that individuals possessing temporary licenses to practice in areas of critical need may use work for approved employers in any area of critical need without getting approval for each area.

Establishes authority to convert active licenses to limited licenses for retirement/volunteer practice without making a full application and meeting the other requirements. The licenses are free if the licensee receives no compensation.

Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$5,000 per violation to \$10,000.

CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE - CHAPTER 460, F.S.

Authorizes the board to establish by rule, qualifications for serving as a supervising chiropractic physician and procedures for approving a supervisor.

Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$2,000 per violation to \$10,000.

PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CHAPTER 461, F.S.

Provides a definition of the "practice of podiatric medicine" that includes the active practice of not less than 2 years of the 4 years prior to application.

Defines a certified podiatric X-ray assistant as a person employed under the direct supervision of a licensed podiatric physician to perform specific radiologic functions. Directs the board to adopt rules to implement this program.

Amends s. 468.307, F.S., relating to radiologic technology to include provision for the department to establish by rule a subcategory of a certificate limiting the holder to a specific procedure or specified type of equipment.

Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$1,000 per violation to \$10,000.

NURSING - CHAPTER 464, F.S.

Limits the number of times an applicant is permitted to take the examination to 3 consecutive times and requires remedial training approved by the board prior to subsequent examinations.

PHARMACY - CHAPTER 465, F.S.

Provides a definition for a "data communication device" as used in a pharmacy setting. Prohibits the use of records obtained through data communication devices.

Provides for the return of unit-dose prescriptions in institutions to include pharmacies located in correctional facilities. Also, provision is made for disciplining licensees who do not protect the confidentiality of patients' records.

Makes it clear that the pharmacy owns the records and provides conditions under which the records may be released by a patient to other parties.

Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$1,000 per violation to \$5,000.

Creates within the Department of Health a ten-member Task Force for the Study of Collaborative Drug Therapy. It provides for appointment of members from certain associations and state entities. It is charged with certain responsibilities. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than August 1, 1999, and submit its report to the Legislature no later than December 31, 1999.

DENTISTRY - CHAPTER 466, F.S.

Expands the current definition of the "practice of dentistry" to encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It does not include coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits as long as medical judgments are not involved.

Clarifies that written work order forms are no longer required to be furnished by the department. Dentists are required to obtain their own forms, but the board approves the form.

MIDWIFERY - CHAPTER 467, F.S.

Requires midwives to meet the financial requirements contained in s. 455.694.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY - CHAPTER 468, PART I, F.S.

Provides an exemption from licensure for persons certified in the area of speech-language impairment, hearing impairment, or individuals working under the direct supervision of certified individuals through January 1, 2000.

Clarifies that a master's degree or a doctor's degree with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology qualifies for licensure.

Requires a bachelor's degree for all speech-language pathology or audiology assistants. This meets the Department of Education request that the statutory language reflect the reality that these applicants must obtain a bachelor's degree.

DIETETICS AND NUTRITION - CHAPTER 468, PART X, F.S.

Provides that sexual misconduct is expressly prohibited.

ATHLETIC TRAINER - CHAPTER 468, PART XIII, F.S.

Converts the Council of Athletic Training composed of seven members reporting to the department to a Board of Athletic Training composed of nine members. Five of the council members are required to be athletic trainers, one member a physician licensed under ch. 460, a physician licensed under either chapter 458 or 459, and two consumer members. Provides for staggered terms. The board shall maintain its headquarters in Tallahassee. All council member terms are terminated on July 1, 1999. Council members may be considered for appointment to the new board.

ORTHOTICS, PROSTHETICS, & PEDORTHICS - CHAPTER 468, PART XIV, F.S.

Provides a "grandfather" provision for certain professionals. Applicants who successfully completed, prior to March 1, 1998, at least half of the examination requirements for national certification, and completed the remaining portion prior to July 1, 1998, are "grandfathered" in and considered as nationally certified by March 1, 1998.

ELECTROLYSIS - CHAPTER 478, F.S.

Clarifies the definition of electrolysis to mean the permanent removal of hair by destroying the hair-producing cells using equipment and devices approved by the Board of Medicine and cleared by and registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CLINICAL LABORATORIES - CHAPTER 483, PART I, F.S.

Expands the definition in s. 483.041, F.S., for clinical laboratories, by including specific services that are provided.

CLINICAL LABORATORIES PERSONNEL - CHAPTER 483, PART III, F.S.

Revises several sections of law relating to this profession, mainly to conform clinical lab director qualifications to federal regulation. Strengthens and conforms grounds for disciplinary action to mirror provisions in other practice acts of professions regulated by MQA.

MEDICAL PHYSICISTS - CHAPTER 483, PART IV, F.S.

Removes the provision for the issuance of a temporary license. It is no longer necessary because the department is able to process applications in a timely manner.

OPTICIANS - CHAPTER 484, PART I, F.S.

Provides a licensed optician must have been licensed for at least one year prior to being able to supervise an apprentice.

**FITTING/DISPENSING OF HEARING AIDS -
CHAPTER 484, PART II, F.S.**

Provides that the period for a refund mirrors language that speech-language pathology and audiology have in their practice act. It requires a refund within 30 days of the return or attempted return of the hearing aid.

Increases the penalty for the unlicensed practice of the profession from a second-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony.

PHYSICAL THERAPY - CHAPTER 486, F.S.

Provides that a physical therapist may refer patients to or consult with licensed Advanced Register Nurse Practitioners (ARNP).

Revises several sections of statutes to repeal temporary license status.

PSYCHOLOGY - CHAPTER 490, F.S.

Amends a provision passed last year which provided that the date an applicant could submit to the board from prior to July 1, 2001, to August 31, 2001, and that the applicant was enrolled and graduated from a school, not accredited, but with a standard of education and training comparable to programs accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The comparability is changed from a determined by the board, to providing a certificate of comparability provided by the program director of an accredited doctoral-level psychology program.

Also, it provides that a psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology and has at least 20 years of experience as a licensee in any jurisdiction of the United States within 25 years preceding the date of application may be licensed in Florida.

**CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, &
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING - CHAPTER 491, F.S.**

Provides that applicants who register as interns on or before December 31, 2001, and meet the education requirements in effect on December 31, 2000, are deemed to have met the educational requirements for licensure.

Clarifies that an applicant may be issued a dual license and charged a fee.

FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES - SECTIONS 626.883 and 641.316, F. S.

Provides that all fiscal intermediaries are required to include a detailed explanation of benefits for payments to a health care provider.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

Yes, the bill authorizes the various boards to make rules to implement several of the provisions contained in the bill.

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

None in general. However, certain fiscal intermediaries and health maintenance organizations may be affected.

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

No.

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

None.

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No. However, the bill does raise the caps on fines for disciplinary actions against certain health care practitioners.

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

No.

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

- b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

- c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

- (1) parents and guardians?

N/A

- (2) service providers?

N/A

- (3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Chapters 20, 232, 381, 395, 408, 455, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 464, 465, 466, 468, 478, 483, 484, 486, 490, 491, 499, 626, and 641, Florida Statutes.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Technical. Amends s. 232.435, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 2. Amends s. 381.026, Florida Statutes, to add Department of Health to the definitions for the Florida Patient's Rights and Responsibilities section. The department is responsible for prosecution of certain physicians (medical, osteopathic, and podiatric) who fail to comply with its provision. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is responsible for all health care facilities. Prior to this change, AHCA was responsible for both groups.

Section 3. Amends s. 381.0261, Florida Statutes, to correct references to carry out the provisions of AHCA prosecuting facilities and DOH prosecuting certain physicians for failure to comply with the Florida Patient's Rights and Responsibilities law.

Section 4. Technical. Amends s. 455.501, Florida Statutes, to include in the definition of health care practitioners those professions that were not included last year.

Section 5. Technical. Amends s. 455.507, Florida Statutes, to add "or the department when there is no board" to section relating to exemptions for members of the armed forces or their spouses.

Section 6. Technical. Amends s. 455.521, Florida Statutes, relating to the powers and duties of the department as it relates to the "professions" under its jurisdiction.

Section 7. Technical. Reenacts s. 455.564, Florida Statutes, and makes clarifying amendments relating to continuing education credits.

Section 8. Technical. Amends s. 455.565, Florida Statutes, to clarify the year in which certain applicants began practicing medicine "in any jurisdiction".

Section 9. Amends s. 455.567, Florida Statutes, clarifying the definition of sexual misconduct in the practice of a health care profession by a health care practitioner.

Section 10. Technical. Amends s. 455.574, Florida Statutes, clarifying an applicant may review the questions the applicant answered incorrectly or the parts of the examination failed.

Section 11. Technical. Amends s. 455.587, Florida Statutes, authorizing a fee of up to \$25 for the issuance of wall certificates authorized in 1998 to licensees licensed prior to July 1, 1998, or for a duplicate wall certificate.

Section 12. Technical. Amends s. 455.604, Florida Statutes, to add the profession licensed under part X of ch. 468 to the list of professions required to complete a continuing education course on HIV and AIDS.

Section 13. Technical. Amends s. 455.607, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 14. Amends s. 455.624, Florida Statutes, to provide penalties for various offenses, such as, sexual misconduct, failing to provide information to a patient about their rights, failing to comply with profiling and credentialing requirements, or failing to report certain convictions. Increases the administrative fine cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and provides that the boards may assess costs (including attorney fees) related to the investigation and prosecution of a case.

Section 15. Amends s. 455.654, Florida Statutes, to include in the definition of health care provider, any business entity that is operating as a provider of clinical laboratory services for kidney dialysis or nephrology that is vertically integrated with another entity providing related services, except for any entity licensed under ch. 395. Removes the exception from the definition of referrals for those made by a nephrologist for renal dialysis services and supplies.

Section 16. Amends s. 455.664, Florida Statutes, relating to advertisement by a health care practitioner of free or discounted services to change the term health care provider to health care practitioner. This conforms to 1998 changes in terms. Also, the requirements were made to apply to the following chapters: 465, 467, 478, 483, 484, 490, and 491.

Section 17. Amends s. 455.667, Florida Statutes, to expand the definitions to provide that in certain instances, the department may obtain patient records, billing records, and insurance records without patient consent if a complaint has been filed alleging inadequate medical care, fraud, kickbacks, etc., and certain conditions are met.

Section 18. Amends s. 455.687, Florida Statutes, to clarify that the department may issue an emergency suspension order of the license of any health care practitioner who tests positive for any drug on any government or private-sector pre-employment or employer-ordered drug test, if they do not have a legitimate medical reason for using such drug. The practitioner is given 48 hours from the time of notification to produce a lawful prescription for the drug before an emergency order is issued.

Section 19. Amends s. 455.694, Florida Statutes, relating to financial responsibility requirements to include ch. 467 (midwives).

Section 20. Creates s. 455.712, Florida Statutes, to require all business establishments regulated by the Division of Medical Quality Assurance pursuant to ss. 455.517 through 455.707 to obtain an active status business license prior to operating such business. Business establishments include, but are not limited to, dental laboratories, electrology facilities, massage establishments, pharmacies, and health care services pools.

ACUPUNCTURE

Section 21. Creates s. 457.1095, Florida Statutes, to provide for an acupuncturist teaching permit. Allows acupuncturists from other states or countries, not licensed in Florida, to obtain a permit for a period of 12 months with one 12 month renewal. Establishes requirements for obtaining such permits.

MEDICINE

Section 22. Amends s. 458.305, Florida Statutes, relating to the definition of the "practice of medicine". Expands the current definition of the "practice of medicine" to encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It does not include coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits, as long as medical judgments are not involved.

Section 23. Technical. Requires that one member of the Board of Medicine be a health care risk manager licensed under s. 395.10974 (hospital ch.) rather than a hospital risk manager certified under part IX of ch 626 (insurance ch.).

Section 24. Amends s. 458.311, Florida Statutes, to provide for the Federation of State Medical Boards to give the medical examination rather than the Board of Medicine as was done prior to 1999. Also, after the year 2000, only the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) will be accepted for licensure by Florida and the various other states. Prior to this date, a combination of the various approved medical examinations has been acceptable. Provision is made to allow an individual who was licensed in another state and practiced for at least 10 years to become licensed in Florida by passage of the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX). Various provisions of obsolete language are deleted.

Section 25. Technical. Amends s. 458.3115, Florida Statutes, to delete obsolete language related to the Agency for Health Care Administration (agency), and insert "department" for the Department of Health. The medical boards were transferred from the agency to the department effective July 1, 1997.

Section 26. Amends s. 458.313, Florida Statutes, to provide that prior to 1/1/2000, a physician who meets various requirements and passed a combination of the various approved medical examinations can be licensed in Florida by endorsement. After that date, they can only be licensed by endorsement if they passed all parts of the USMLE examination. Provides that an applicant may complete a board-approved postgraduate training program within 2 years of filing an application in lieu of the actual practice of medicine for at least 2 of the preceding 4 years. Also, various obsolete language is deleted.

Section 27. Amends s. 458.315, Florida Statutes, relating to a certificate to practice in areas of critical need to authorize a physician to practice in all approved areas of critical need rather than seek approval for each area. The recipient of a temporary certificate shall notify the board within 30 days after accepting employment, of all such employment and of any places where practice privileges were denied.

Section 28. Technical. Amends s. 458.3165, Florida Statutes, to delete obsolete wording.

Section 29. Amends s. 458.317, Florida Statutes, to authorize any physician holding an active Florida license to convert it to a limited license for the purpose of providing uncompensated care for low-income Floridians. Applicants who receive no compensation, will have all fees and assessments waived.

Section 30. Amends s. 458.331, Florida Statutes, to increase the administrative fine cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and include provision for fining a physician who violates the Patient's Bill of Rights.

Section 31. Amends s. 458.347, Florida Statutes, relating to physician assistants to delete obsolete language related to examinations and to provide that temporary licenses expire 30 days after receiving test scores.

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Section 32. Amends s. 459.003, Florida Statutes, relating to the definition of the "practice of osteopathic medicine". Expands the current definition to encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It does not include coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits, as long as medical judgments are not involved.

Section 33. Amends s. 459.0075, Florida Statutes, to authorize any physician holding an active Florida license to convert it to a limited license for the purpose of providing uncompensated care for low-income Floridians. Applicants who receive no compensation, will have all fees and assessments waived.

Section 34. Amends s. 459.015, Florida Statutes, to increase the administrative fine cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and include provision for fining a physician who violates the Patient's Bill of Rights.

CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

Section 35. Amends s. 460.406, Florida Statutes, to grant the Board of Chiropractic Medicine rule making authority to establish qualifications for serving as a supervising physician and procedures for approving a supervising physician.

Section 36. Amends s. 460.413, Florida Statutes, to increase the administrative fine cap from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for Chiropractic physicians.

PODIATRIC MEDICINE

Section 37. Amends s. 461.003, Florida Statutes, to define a certified podiatric X-ray assistant as a person employed under the direct supervision of a licensed podiatric physician to perform specific radiologic functions.

Section 38. Amends s. 461.006, Florida Statutes, to provide a definition of the practice of podiatric medicine that includes the active practice of not less than 2 years of the 4 years prior to application.

Section 39. Amends s. 461.007, Florida Statutes, to require evidence of the active practice of podiatric medicine that includes the active practice of not less than 2 years of the preceding 4 years. If the applicant does not meet the definition, the board shall require completion of a board-approved course prior to renewal of the license.

Section 40. Amends s. 461.013, Florida Statutes, to include failure to comply with the provisions of the patient's rights as grounds for discipline. Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$1,000 per violation to \$10,000.

Section 41. Creates s. 461.0135, Florida Statutes, to provide for the operation of X-ray machines by certified X-ray assistants. Directs the board to adopt rules to implement this program.

NURSING

Section 42. Amends s. 464.008, Florida Statutes, to limit the number of times an applicant is permitted to take the examination to 3 consecutive times and requires remedial training approved by the board prior to subsequent examinations.

Section 43. Amends s. 464.022, Florida Statutes, to include individuals enrolled in board-approved remedial courses in the exceptions list.

PHARMACY

Section 44. Amends s. 465.003, Florida Statutes, to include a definition for a "data communication device" as used in a pharmacy setting.

Section 45. Amends s. 465.016, Florida Statutes, to provide for the return of unit-dose prescriptions in institutions to include pharmacies located in correctional facilities. Also, provision is made for disciplining licensees who do not protect the confidentiality of patients' records. Increases the board's administrative fine cap for practice act violations from a maximum of \$1,000 per violation to \$5,000.

Section 46. Amends s. 465.017, Florida Statutes, to make it clear that the pharmacy owns the records and provides conditions under which the records may be released by a patient to other parties. Prohibits the use of records obtained through data communication devices.

Section 47. Technical. Amends s. 465.014, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 48. Technical. Amends s. 465.015, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 49. Technical. Amends s. 465.0196, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 50. Technical. Amends s. 468.812, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 51. Technical. Amends s. 499.003, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

Section 52. Creates within the Department of Health a ten-member Task Force for the Study of Collaborative Drug Therapy. It provides for appointment of members from certain associations and state entities. It is charged with certain responsibilities. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than August 1, 1999, and submit its report to the Legislature no later than December 31, 1999.

DENTISTRY

Section 53. Amends s. 466.003, Florida Statutes, relating to the practice of dentistry to expand the current definition of the "practice of dentistry" to encompass making or approving a diagnosis, treatment, treatment plan, operation, procedure, or prescription. It does not include coverage decisions for purposes of insurance benefits as long as medical judgments are not involved.

Section 54. Technical. Amends s. 466.021, Florida Statutes, to delete the requirement for the department to furnish the actual work order forms to dentists.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

Section 55. Amends s. 468.1115, Florida Statutes, to provide that the exemption for persons certified in the areas of speech-language impairment or hearing impairment under ch. 231, F.S, is valid through 1/1/2000.

Section 56. Amends s. 468.1155, Florida Statutes, to clarify that an applicant for a provisional license is qualified with either a master's or a doctoral degree.

Section 57. Amends s. 468.1215, Florida Statutes, to clarify that a bachelor's degree is required for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant.

Section 58. Amends s. 468.307, Florida Statutes, relating to radiologic technology to include provision for the department to establish by rule a subcategory of a certificate limiting the holder to a specific procedure or specified type of equipment.

DIETITIANS & NUTRITIONISTS

Section 59. Amends s. 468.519, Florida Statutes, to prohibit sexual misconduct in the practice of dietetics and nutrition.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Section 60. Amends s. 468.701, Florida Statutes, to change definitions section to delete council and insert Board of Athletic Training.

Section 61. Amends s. 468.703, Florida Statutes, to convert the Council of Athletic Training composed of seven members reporting to the department to a Board of Athletic Training composed of nine members. Five of the council members are required to be athletic trainers, one member a physician licensed under ch. 460, a physician licensed under either chapter 458 or 459, and two consumer members.

Section 62. Amends s. 468.705, Florida Statutes, to provide for the new board to have rule making authority.

Section 63. Technical. Amends s. 468.707, Florida Statutes, to replace department with board.

Section 64. Technical. Amends s. 468.709, Florida Statutes, to replace department with board.

Section 65. Technical. Amends s. 468.711, Florida Statutes, to replace department with board.

Section 66. Technical. Amends s. 468.719, Florida Statutes, to replace department with board.

Section 67. Technical. Amends s. 468.721, Florida Statutes, to provide that department rules remain in effect pending adoption of rules by the board. Deletes obsolete language.

Section 68. Technical. Amends s. 20.43, Florida Statutes, to include the Board of Athletic Training created under part XIII of ch. 468.

Section 69. Technical. Provides that the council and the terms of its members are terminated on July 1, 1999.

ORTHOTICS, PROSTHETICS & PEDORTHICS

Section 70. Amends s. 468.805, Florida Statutes, to provide for a grandfather clause for certain people who meet certain requirements related to meeting a March 1, 1998 date.

ELECTROLYSIS

Section 71. Amends s. 478.42, Florida Statutes, to clarify the definition of electrolysis to mean the permanent removal of hair by destroying the hair-producing cells using equipment and devices approved by the Board of Medicine and cleared by and registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CLINICAL LABORATORIES

Section 72. Amends s. 483.041, Florida Statutes, by expanding the definition for clinical laboratories, by including specific services that are provided.

Section 73. Amends s. 483.803, Florida Statutes, to state that a clinical laboratory examination means an examination as defined in s. 483.041.

Section 74. Technical. Amends s. 395.7015, Florida Statutes, to correct reference.

Section 75. Technical. Amends s. 408.07, Florida Statutes, to correct reference.

CLINICAL LABORATORIES PERSONNEL

Section 76. Technical. Amends s. 483.807, Florida Statutes, to clarify language relating to initial application for a laboratory training program.

Section 77. Amends s. 483.809, Florida Statutes, to authorize the board to designate by rule a national examination in lieu of a state examination.

Section 78. Amends s. 483.812, Florida Statutes, to mainly revise clinical laboratory director requirements to bring into conformity with federal law.

Section 79. Amends s. 483.813, Florida Statutes, to delete provision for a conditional license for a period of up to 3 years.

Section 80. Amends s. 483.821, Florida Statutes, to authorize the board to provide by rule for continuing education or retraining requirements for candidates failing an examination two or more times.

Section 81. Amends s. 483.824, Florida Statutes, to establish additional requirements for a clinical laboratory director.

Section 82. Amends s. 483.825, Florida Statutes, to amend grounds for disciplinary action to include a number of items, such as, convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the activities of clinical laboratory personnel or involves moral turpitude or fraudulent or dishonest dealing. A number of other grounds were included.

MEDICAL PHYSICISTS

Section 83. Amends s. 483.901, Florida Statutes, to delete the provision for a temporary license to an applicant pending completion of the application process.

OPTICIANS

Section 84. Amends s. 484.007, Florida Statutes, to provide a licensed optician must have been licensed for at least one year prior to being able to supervise an apprentice.

FITTING/DISPENSING OF HEARING AIDS

Section 85. Amends s. 484.0512, Florida Statutes, to provide that the period for a refund mirrors language that speech-language pathology and audiology have in their practice act. It requires a refund within 30 days of the return or attempted return of the hearing aid.

Section 86. Amends s. 484.053, Florida Statutes, to increase the penalty for the unlicensed practice of the profession from a second-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony.

Section 87. Technical. Amends s. 484.056, Florida Statutes, to correct a reference.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Section 88. Amends s. 486.041, Florida Statutes, to delete the provision for issuance of a temporary permit.

Section 89. Amends s. 486.081, Florida Statutes, to delete the provision for issuance of a temporary permit.

Section 90. Amends s. 486.103, Florida Statutes, to delete the provision for issuance of a temporary permit.

Section 91. Amends s. 486.107, Florida Statutes, to delete the provision for issuance of a temporary permit.

PSYCHOLOGY

Section 92. Amends s. 490.003, Florida Statutes, to extend the date from prior to July 1, 1999, to August 31, 2001, for definition of doctoral-level psychological education, and doctoral degree in psychology.

Section 93. Amends s. 490.005, Florida Statutes, to amend a provision passed last year which provided the date an applicant could submit to the board from prior to July 1, 2001, to August 31, 2001, and that the applicant was enrolled and graduated from a school, not accredited, but with a standard of education and training comparable to programs accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The comparability is changed from a determined by the board, to providing a certificate of comparability provided by the program director of an accredited doctoral-level psychology program. Also, several dates of prior to July 1, 1999, are changed to prior to August 31, 2001.

Section 94. Amends s. 490.006, Florida Statutes, to provide that a psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology and who has a least 20 years of experience as a licensee in any jurisdiction of the United States within 25 years preceding the date of application may be licensed in Florida.

Section 95. Technical. Amends s. 490.0085, Florida Statutes, to correct name of the Medical Quality Trust Fund.

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, & MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Section 96. Amends s. 491.0045, Florida Statutes, to provide that applicants who register as interns on or before 12/31/2001, and meet the education requirements in effect on 12/31/2000, are deemed to have met the educational requirements for licensure.

Section 97. Amends s. 491.0046, Florida Statutes, to provide additional educational requirements for applicants applying for licensure by examination or endorsement.

Section 98. Amends s. 491.005, Florida Statutes, to provide for the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees shall not exceed those stated in this subsection. Also, it provides the board may adopt rules necessary to implement any education or experience requirement of this section for licensure as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor.

Section 99. Amends s. 491.005, Florida Statutes, to provide that effective 1/1/2001, the enhanced educational requirements take effect.

Section 100. Amends s. 491.006, Florida Statutes, to provide for licensure by endorsement or by passage of the examination in the profession which the applicant seeks licensure.

Section 101. Amends s. 491.0085, Florida Statutes, to provide that laws and rules courses and their providers may test the applicants for the courses offered.

Section 102. Amends s. 491.014, Florida Statutes, to amend the exemption from licensure to delete the requirement that such services may be performed for no more than five days in any month and no more than 15 days in a calendar year.

FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES

Section 103. Amends s. 626.883, Florida Statutes, to provide that all fiscal intermediaries are required to include a detailed explanation of benefits for payments to a health care provider.

Section 104. Amends s. 641.316, Florida Statutes, to provide that all fiscal intermediaries are required to include a detailed explanation of benefits for payments to a health care provider.

Section 105. Provides an effective date of July 1, 1999, unless otherwise provided herein.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Recurring Effects:

See Fiscal Comments.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

See Fiscal Comments.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

There is no direct costs on the private sector in general. Because of the potential for increased fines, there may be additional costs to selected health care practitioners who are disciplined.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

None.

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Per the Department of Health, the provisions of this bill will have a minimal fiscal impact on the department and none on the private sector in general.

The department projects that up to 38 out of state acupuncturists may apply for teaching permits at \$300 per application. If the full 38 apply, then additional revenue of \$11,400 would be generated. No projections were available for fine increases, if any, from the increase in the fine cap for disciplinary actions.

The conversion of the Athletic Trainers Advisory Council to a board would cost \$7,852 the first year and \$6,560 each year thereafter. These costs are mostly travel and related expenses for the two additional members.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

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This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

Robert W. Coggins

Lucretia Shaw Collins