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A bill to be entitled An act relating to behavior analysts; amending s. 20.43, F.S.; establishing the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis within the Division of Medical Quality Assurance; amending s. 456.001, F.S.; including licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts in the definition of "health care practitioner"; amending s. 456.0135, F.S.; requiring an applicant for licensure under chapter 470, F.S., to submit to certain fingerprinting requirements; creating chapter 470, F.S.; entitling the chapter; creating s. 470.40, F.S.; providing a purpose; creating s. 470.41, F.S.; defining terms; creating s. 470.415, F.S.; creating the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis; providing for membership and terms of members; creating s. 470.42, F.S.; creating rulemaking authority for the board and the department; creating s. 470.43, F.S.; providing requirements for licensure as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst; creating s. 470.44, F.S.; providing requirements for renewal of license; creating s. 470.45, F.S.; establishing maximum fees for applications, initial licenses, and license renewals; requiring fees collected by the department to be deposited into a specified trust fund; creating s. 470.46, F.S.; providing grounds for denial of license or disciplinary action; creating s. 470.47, F.S.; providing penalties for practicing applied behavior analysis without a license or wrongfully

identifying oneself as a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst; creating s. 470.48, F.S.; providing exceptions to applicability of the chapter; providing appropriations and authorizing positions; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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- Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 20.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 20.43 Department of Health.—There is created a Department of Health.
- (3) The following divisions of the Department of Health are established:
- (g) Division of Medical Quality Assurance, which is responsible for the following boards and professions established within the division:
 - 1. The Board of Acupuncture, created under chapter 457.
 - 2. The Board of Medicine, created under chapter 458.
- 3. The Board of Osteopathic Medicine, created under chapter 50 459.
 - 4. The Board of Chiropractic Medicine, created under chapter 460.
 - 5. The Board of Podiatric Medicine, created under chapter 461.
 - 6. Naturopathy, as provided under chapter 462.
 - 7. The Board of Optometry, created under chapter 463.
- 8. The Board of Nursing, created under part I of chapter 464.

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20141212e1

- 9. Nursing assistants, as provided under part II of chapter 464.
 - 10. The Board of Pharmacy, created under chapter 465.
 - 11. The Board of Dentistry, created under chapter 466.
 - 12. Midwifery, as provided under chapter 467.
 - 13. The Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, created under part I of chapter 468.
 - 14. The Board of Nursing Home Administrators, created under part II of chapter 468.
 - 15. The Board of Occupational Therapy, created under part III of chapter 468.
 - 16. Respiratory therapy, as provided under part V of chapter 468.
 - 17. Dietetics and nutrition practice, as provided under part X of chapter 468.
 - 18. The Board of Athletic Training, created under part XIII of chapter 468.
 - 19. The Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists, created under part XIV of chapter 468.
 - 20. The Board of Applied Behavior Analysis, created under chapter 470.
 - 21.20. Electrolysis, as provided under chapter 478.
 - 22.21. The Board of Massage Therapy, created under chapter 480.
 - $\underline{23.22.}$ The Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel, created under part III of chapter 483.
 - 24.23. Medical physicists, as provided under part IV of chapter 483.
 - 25.24. The Board of Opticianry, created under part I of

chapter 484.

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26.25. The Board of Hearing Aid Specialists, created under part II of chapter 484.

27.26. The Board of Physical Therapy Practice, created under chapter 486.

28.27. The Board of Psychology, created under chapter 490.

29.28. School psychologists, as provided under chapter 490.

30.29. The Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling, created under chapter 491.

31.30. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics, as provided under part III of chapter 401.

Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 456.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.001 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(4) "Health care practitioner" means any person licensed under chapter 457; chapter 458; chapter 459; chapter 460; chapter 461; chapter 462; chapter 463; chapter 464; chapter 465; chapter 466; chapter 467; part I, part II, part III, part V, part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468; chapter 470; chapter 478; chapter 480; part III or part IV of chapter 483; chapter 484; chapter 486; chapter 490; or chapter 491.

Section 3. Section 456.0135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.0135 General background screening provisions.-

(1) An application for initial licensure received on or after January 1, 2013, under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, chapter 464, or s. 465.022, or chapter 470 shall include fingerprints pursuant to procedures established by

20141212e1

the department through a vendor approved by the Department of Law Enforcement and fees imposed for the initial screening and retention of fingerprints. Fingerprints must be submitted electronically to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. Each board, or the department if there is no board, shall screen the results to determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements. For any subsequent renewal of the applicant's license that requires a national criminal history check, the department shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the retained fingerprints of the applicant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- (2) All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required under subsection (1) shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement as provided under s. 943.05(2)(g) and (h) and (3). The department shall notify the Department of Law Enforcement regarding any person whose fingerprints have been retained but who is no longer licensed.
- (3) The costs of fingerprint processing, including the cost for retaining fingerprints, shall be borne by the applicant subject to the background screening.
- Section 4. Chapter 470, Florida Statutes, is created and entitled "Behavior Analysts."
- Section 5. Section 470.40, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 470.40 Purpose.—The Legislature finds that the practice of applied behavior analysis in this state by unskilled and incompetent practitioners presents a danger to the health and

20141212e1

safety of the public. The Legislature finds further that it is difficult for the public to make informed choices about behavior analysts and that the consequences of a wrong choice could endanger public health. This act is intended to protect the public from the harmful conduct of unqualified, unprofessional, or unethical behavior analysts.

Section 6. Section 470.41, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 470.41 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
- (1) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. The term does not include psychological testing, the diagnosis of a mental or physical disorder, neuropsychology, psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, or long-term counseling.
- (2) "Board" means the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis established in s. 470.415, except when the term is used in the context of board certification.
- (3) "Board-certified behavior analyst" means a practitioner who is certified as a behavior analyst, or is recognized as a Florida-certified behavior analyst, by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).
- (4) "Board-certified assistant behavior analyst" means a practitioner who is certified by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board, as an assistant behavior analyst.

20141212e1

- (5) "Department" means the Department of Health.
 - (6) "Licensed behavior analyst" means an individual who is licensed by the board and meets the requirements of this chapter.
 - (7) "Licensed assistant behavior analyst" means an individual who is licensed by the board as an assistant behavior analyst and meets the requirements of this chapter.
 - Section 7. Section 470.415, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 470.415 Board of Applied Behavior Analysis.-
 - (1) The Board of Applied Behavior Analysis is created within the department. The board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
 - (2) The initial board members, who are not required to be licensed as a condition of appointment, shall be appointed as follows:
 - (a) Three board-certified behavior analysts, two of whom must hold a doctoral level degree. One shall be appointed to a 4-year term, one shall be appointed to a 2-year term, and one shall be appointed to a 1-year term;
 - (b) One board-certified assistant behavior analyst, who shall be appointed to a 3-year term;
 - (c) One psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 490 or one clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 491, who shall be appointed to a 3-year term. The majority of the appointee's professional practice must be related to the treatment of behavior disorders, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorders; and

20141212e1

- (d) Two laypersons, who may include a parent or guardian of an individual who is a recipient of applied behavior analysis services, one of whom shall serve a 4-year term, and one of whom shall serve a 2-year term.
- (3) As the terms of the initial members expire, the Governor shall appoint successors for 4-year terms. Each successor, except for the laypersons, must be licensed. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 8. Section 470.42, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

470.42 Rulemaking authority.-

- (1) The board has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this chapter conferring duties upon it. Such rules must include, but are not limited to, rules relating to:
- (a) Standards of practice for licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts.
- (b) Supervision of licensed assistant behavior analysts, or students in training to be licensed behavior analysts or licensed assistant behavior analysts, including the number of persons that a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst may supervise at one time.
- (2) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this chapter conferring duties upon it. Such rules shall include, but are not limited to, rules relating to licensure and license renewal applications, processes, and fees.
- Section 9. Section 470.43, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 470.43 Licensure.

233	(1) The department shall license an applicant as a behavior
234	analyst if the applicant:
235	(a) Submits a completed application to the department using
236	a form approved by the board;
237	(b) Remits the appropriate fees;
238	(c) Has passed a criminal background check after submitting
239	fingerprints and a fee pursuant to s. 456.0135; and
240	(d) Submits proof that the applicant is a board-certified
241	behavior analyst.
242	(2) The department shall license an applicant as an
243	assistant behavior analyst if the applicant:
244	(a) Submits a completed application to the department using
245	a form approved by the board;
246	(b) Remits the appropriate fees;
247	(c) Has passed a criminal background check after submitting
248	fingerprints and a fee pursuant to s. 456.0135;
249	(d) Submits proof to the department that the applicant is a
250	board-certified assistant behavior analyst; and
251	(e) Identifies a supervising licensed behavior analyst who
252	is qualified to supervise the applicant under BACB requirements
253	and this chapter.
254	Section 10. Section 470.44, Florida Statutes, is created to
255	read:
256	470.44 Renewal of license.—
257	(1) The department shall renew a license upon receipt of
258	proof that the applicant is certified by the BACB and a
259	completed renewal application and fee.
260	(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing a

procedure for the biennial renewal of licenses.

20141212e1

(3) The board shall by rule prescribe continuing education not to exceed 32 hours required biennially as a condition for renewal of a license as a behavior analyst, or not to exceed 20 hours required biennially as a condition for renewal of a license as an assistant behavior analyst. The criteria for continuing education programs shall be approved by the board. The board may authorize by rule continuing education earned for BACB certification to be used to meet the continuing education requirements of this subsection.

Section 11. Section 470.45, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

470.45 Fees.-

- (1) The board shall establish by rule a fee not to exceed \$100 for an application, \$300 for an initial license, or \$300 for license renewal.
- (2) All moneys collected by the department under this chapter shall be deposited in the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund as provided under s. 456.025.

Section 12. Section 470.46, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

470.46 Disciplinary actions.-

- (1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2):
- (a) Attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a license under this chapter by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation or through an error of the board or the department.
- (b) Having a license to practice a comparable profession revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the denial of certification or licensure by another state,

territory, or country.

- (c) Being convicted or found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or having entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of his or her profession or the ability to practice his or her profession. However, in the case of a plea of nolo contendere, the board shall allow the person who is the subject of the disciplinary proceeding to present evidence in mitigation relevant to the underlying charges and circumstances surrounding the plea.
- (d) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising or obtaining a fee or other thing of value on the representation that beneficial results from any treatment will be guaranteed.
- (e) Advertising, practicing, or attempting to practice under a name other than one's own.
- (f) Maintaining a professional association with any person who the applicant or licensee knows, or has reason to believe, is in violation of this chapter or of a rule of the department or the board.
- (g) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any nonlicensed person to hold himself or herself out as licensed under this chapter.
- (h) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation placed upon a person licensed under this chapter.
- (i) Willfully making or filing a false report or record; failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law; willfully impeding or obstructing the filing of a report or record; or inducing another person to make or file a false report or record or to impede or obstruct the filing of a report

20141212e1

or record. Such report or record includes only a report or record which requires the signature of a person licensed under this chapter.

- (j) Paying a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for receiving a patient or client, or receiving a kickback, rebate, bonus, or other remuneration for referring a patient or client to another provider of applied behavior analysis services or to a provider of health care services or goods; referring a patient or client to oneself for services on a fee-paid basis when those services are already being paid for by some other public or private entity; or entering into a reciprocal referral agreement.
- (k) Committing any act upon a patient or client which would constitute sexual battery or which would constitute sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct shall be defined by rule by the board.
- (1) Making misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of applied behavior analysis.
- (m) Soliciting patients or clients personally, or through an agent, through the use of fraud, intimidation, undue influence, or a form of overreaching or vexatious conduct.
- (n) Failing to make available to a patient or client, upon written request, copies of test results, reports, or documents in the possession or under the control of the licensee which have been prepared for and paid for by the patient or client.
- (o) Failing to respond within 30 days to a written communication from the department concerning any investigation by the department, or failing to make available any relevant records with respect to any investigation about the licensee's

conduct or background.

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(p) Being unable to practice the profession for which he or she is licensed under this chapter with reasonable skill or competence as a result of any mental or physical condition or by reason of illness; drunkenness; or excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other substance. In enforcing this paragraph, upon a finding by the State Surgeon General, the State Surgeon General's designee, or the board that probable cause exists to believe that the licensee is unable to practice the profession because of the reasons stated in this paragraph, the department shall have the authority to compel a licensee to submit to a mental or physical examination by a physician designated by the department or board. If the licensee refuses to comply with such order, the department's order directing the examination may be enforced by filing a petition for enforcement in the circuit court in the circuit in which the licensee resides or does business. The licensee against whom the petition is filed may not be named or identified by initials in any public court records or documents, and the proceedings shall be closed to the public. The department shall be entitled to the summary procedure provided in s. 51.011. A licensee affected under this paragraph shall at reasonable intervals be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can resume the competent practice for which he or she is licensed with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

(q) Performing any treatment or prescribing any therapy which, by the prevailing standards of the behavior analysts in the community, would constitute experimentation on human subjects, without first obtaining full, informed, and written

378 consent.

- (r) Failing to meet the minimum standards of performance in professional activities when measured against generally prevailing peer performance, including the undertaking of activities for which the licensee is not qualified by training or experience.
- (s) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person whom the licensee knows or has reason to know is not qualified by training or experience to perform such responsibilities.
- (t) Violating a rule relating to the regulation of the profession or a lawful order of the department or the board previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.
- (u) Failure of the licensee to maintain in confidence a communication made by a patient or client in the context of such services.
- (v) Making public statements which are derived from test data, client contacts, or behavioral research and which identify or damage research subjects or clients.
- (w) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter 456, or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.
- (2) The board may enter an order denying licensure or imposing any of the penalties in s. 456.072(2) against any applicant for licensure or licensee who is found guilty of violating subsection (1) or who is found guilty of violating s. 456.072(1).
- Section 13. Section 470.47, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 470.47 Violations and penalties.-
 - (1) A person may not engage in the practice of applied

20141212e1

behavior analysis, assist in the practice of applied behavior analysis, render services designated as applied behavior analysis, or represent himself or herself as a practitioner of applied behavior analysis in this state unless he or she holds an active license as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst pursuant to this chapter or meets an exception under s. 470.48. A person who violates this subsection commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided under s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- (2) A person may not use the following titles or any combination thereof, unless he or she holds an active license as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst pursuant to this chapter:
 - (a) "Licensed behavior analyst."
 - (b) "Licensed assistant behavior analyst."
- (3) A person who violates subsection (2) commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- Section 14. Section 470.48, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 470.48 Exceptions to applicability.—This chapter does not prohibit or restrict the practice of the following:
- (1) An individual licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459.
- (2) An individual licensed pursuant to part III of chapter 468 if the occupational therapist does not represent himself or herself as a behavior analyst.
- (3) An individual licensed under chapter 490 to practice psychology.

20141212e1

- (4) An individual licensed pursuant to chapter 491 as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor.
- (5) A certified teacher authorized to practice in this state; or a teaching assistant, other than a teaching assistant engaged in pupil personnel services, or student support professional who provides applied behavior analysis services under the supervision of a certified teacher. The services provided by or under the supervision of a certified teacher must be within his or her authorized scope of practice and within the scope of his or her education, training, and experience and must be provided in the course of his or her employment in a program approved by the Department of Education.
- (6) A behavior analyst who practices with nonhuman clients, including, but not limited to, applied animal behaviorists and animal trainers.
- (7) An individual who teaches applied behavior analysis or who conducts behavior analytic research if such teaching or research does not involve the delivery of applied behavior analysis.
- (8) A matriculated college or university student or postdoctoral fellow whose activities are part of a defined behavior analysis program of study, practicum, or intensive practicum if his or her practice under this subsection is directly supervised by a licensed behavior analyst or an instructor of course sequence approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). A student or intern may not represent himself or herself as a professional behavior analyst but may use a title indicating his or her trainee status, such

20141212e1

as "behavior analyst student," "behavior analyst intern," or "behavior analyst trainee."

- (9) An unlicensed individual pursuing supervised experiential training to meet eligibility requirements for BACB certification if such training is supervised by a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst who meets BACB supervisor requirements and if the supervised experience is conducted in accordance with other BACB standards and requirements.
- (10) A family member of a recipient of applied behavior analysis services who implements certain procedures with the recipient. Such a family member may not represent himself or herself as a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst.
- (11) A behavior analyst who provides general behavior analysis services to organizations if the services are for the benefit of the organizations and do not involve direct services to individuals.
- (12) A salaried employee of a private, nonprofit organization providing behavior analysis services to children, youth, and families if the services are provided for no charge, the employee is performing duties for which he or she was trained and hired, and the employee does not represent himself or herself as a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior analyst.
- (13) A school psychologist certified in school psychology by the Department of Education who performs behavior analysis services as an employee of a public or private educational institution. Such exemption does not authorize unlicensed

20141212e1

practice that is not performed directly as an employee of an educational institution.

(14) A rabbi, priest, minister, or member of the clergy of a religious denomination or sect if engaging in activities that are within the scope of the performance of his or her regular or specialized ministerial duties and for which no separate fee is charged, or if such activities are performed, with or without a fee, for or under the auspices or sponsorship, individually or in conjunction with others, of an established and legally cognizable church, denomination, or sect; and if the person rendering service remains accountable to the established authority thereof.

Section 15. (1) For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the sums of \$113,541 in recurring funds and \$37,911 in nonrecurring funds are appropriated from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund to the Department of Health, and two full-time equivalent positions with associated salary rate of 70,359 are authorized, for the purpose of implementing the regulatory provisions of this act.

(2) For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sums of \$77,266 in recurring funds and \$26,592 in nonrecurring funds from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund are appropriated to the Department of Health for the purpose of implementing the regulatory provisions of this act.

Section 16. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.