

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

[2020h00713.hms]

BILL: CS/CS/CS/HB 713, 2nd Eng.
INTRODUCER: Rep. Rodriguez, A.M.
SUBJECT: Health Regulation
DATE: March 13, 2020

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 888727 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

• **Language Being Removed:**

- The House amendment removes language from the bill amending s. 456.072, F.S., relating to grounds for discipline of health care practitioners.
- The language being removed provides that a health practitioner making misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent representations relating to his or her specialty designation is grounds for discipline. The language provides the Dept. of Health with specific directions to discipline violations involving misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent representations.
- The language being removed also provides that a practitioner failing to identify through written notice, such as on a name tag or through advertising, his or her specialty designation, is grounds for discipline. Under the language, the paragraph of statute being amended would be enforced by the Dept. of Health, as opposed to the practitioner's regulatory board as under current law.
- Finally, the language being removed from the bill would eliminate a statutory provision currently providing that a practitioner's failure to repay a student loan issued or guaranteed by the state or federal government, or failing to comply with service scholarship obligations, constitutes the practitioner's failure to perform a statutory or legal obligation, leading to a minimum disciplinary action of suspension of license, followed by probation after new payment terms for the loan are agreed to or the scholarship obligation resumes, and a fine of 10 percent of the defaulted loan amount.

• **New Statute Being Created:**

- The House amendment also includes language to create s. 408.064, F.S., directing AHCA to create a webpage dedicated solely to providing information to patients and their families about direct care workers, including specific information to be provided.
- The webpage must link to health-related data which allows consumers to search and locate direct care workers, and the amendment requires AHCA to prominently display a link on its website to the webpage created under the amendment.

• **Overall Effect:**

- The overall effect of the House amendment is to replace language regarding health care practitioner discipline with language directing AHCA to create a webpage.