

CHAPTER 154
HOUSE BILL No. 2620

AN ACT concerning health care; relating to regulatory authority of the state board of healing arts and the board of nursing; relating to non-disciplinary resolution; fingerprinting and criminal history record checks; licensure; website; amending K.S.A. 65-2836 and 65-2878 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 65-2837 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) The board, a committee of the board or a peer review committee established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2840c, and amendments thereto, as a non-disciplinary resolution, may enter into a written agreement with a licensee for a professional development plan, make written recommendations to a licensee or issue a written letter of concern to a licensee if the board, committee of the board or peer review committee determines that the licensee:

(1) Seeks to establish continued competency for renewal of licensure other than through continued education requirements established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2809, and amendments thereto;

(2) has been absent from clinical practice for an extended period of time and seeks to resume clinical practice;

(3) has failed to adhere to the applicable standard of care but not to a degree constituting professional incompetence, as defined by K.S.A. 65-2837, and amendments thereto; or

(4) has engaged in an act or practice that, if continued, would reasonably be expected to result in future violations of the Kansas healing arts act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a meeting of the board, a committee of the board or a peer review committee established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2840c, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of discussing or adopting a non-disciplinary resolution authorized by this section shall not be subject to the Kansas administrative procedures act, K.S.A. 77-501 et seq., and amendments thereto, and shall not be subject to the Kansas open meetings act as provided in K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq., and amendments thereto. A non-disciplinary resolution authorized by this section shall not be deemed disciplinary action or other order or adjudication. No failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care or violation of the Kansas healing arts act may be implied by the adoption of a non-disciplinary resolution.

(c) A non-disciplinary resolution authorized by this section shall be confidential in the manner provided by K.S.A. 65-2898a, and amendments thereto, and shall not be admissible in any civil, criminal or administrative action, except that such resolution shall be admissible in any disciplinary proceeding by the board.

(d) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas healing arts act.

New Sec. 2. (a) As part of an original application for or reinstatement of any license, registration, permit or certificate or in connection with any investigation of any holder of a license, registration, permit or certificate, the state board of healing arts may require a person to be fingerprinted and submit to a state and national criminal history record check. The fingerprints shall be used to identify the person and to determine whether the person has a record of criminal history in this state or other jurisdiction. The state board of healing arts is authorized to submit the fingerprints to the Kansas bureau of investigation and the federal bureau of investigation for a state and national criminal history record check. The state board of healing arts may use the information obtained from fingerprinting and the criminal history for purposes of verifying the identification of the person and in the official determination of the qualifications and fitness of the person to be issued or to maintain a license, registration, permit or certificate.

(b) Local and state law enforcement officers and agencies shall assist the state board of healing arts in taking and processing of fingerprints of applicants for and holders of any license, registration, permit or certificate and shall release all records of adult convictions and nonconvictions and adult convictions or adjudications of another state or country to the state board of healing arts.

(c) The state board of healing arts may fix and collect a fee as may be required by the board in an amount necessary to reimburse the board

for the cost of fingerprinting and the criminal history record check. Any moneys collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the healing arts fee fund.

(d) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas healing arts act.

New Sec. 3. (a) The board shall adopt a formal list of graduated sanctions for violations of the Kansas healing arts act which may be used by the board as a reference guide for the imposition of each level of sanction.

(b) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas healing arts act.

New Sec. 4. (a) On and after July 1, 2010, the board shall make available on a searchable website which shall be accessible by the public, the following information regarding licensees:

(1) The licensee's full name, business address, telephone number, license number, type, status and expiration date;

(2) the licensee's practice specialty, if any, and board certifications, if any;

(3) any public disciplinary action taken against the licensee by the board or by the licensing agency of any state or other country in which the licensee is currently licensed or has been licensed in the past;

(4) any involuntary limitation, denial, revocation or suspension of the licensee's staff membership or clinical privileges at any hospital or other health care facility, and the name of the hospital or facility, the date the action was taken, a description of the action, including any terms and conditions of the action and whether the licensee has fulfilled the conditions of the action;

(5) any involuntary surrender of the licensee's drug enforcement administration registration; and

(6) any final criminal conviction or plea arrangement resulting from the commission or alleged commission of a felony in any state or country.

(b) Any person applying for an active license, including a renewal or reinstatement license, shall provide the information required in subsection (a) on forms or in a manner determined by the board by rule and regulation.

(c) At the time of licensure or renewal, a licensee may add a statement to such licensee's profile as it appears on the website created herein. Such statement may provide further explanation of any disciplinary information contained in such licensee's profile.

(d) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the healing arts act.

New Sec. 5. (a) The board of nursing may require an original applicant for licensure as a professional nurse, practical nurse or mental health technician to be fingerprinted and submit to a state and national criminal history record check. The fingerprints shall be used to identify the applicant and to determine whether the applicant has a record of criminal history in this state or other jurisdictions. The board of nursing is authorized to submit the fingerprints to the Kansas bureau of investigation and the federal bureau of investigation for a state and national criminal history record check. The board of nursing may use the information obtained from fingerprinting and the applicant's criminal history for purposes of verifying the identification of any applicant and in the official determination of character and fitness of the applicant for any licensure to practice professional or practical nursing or mental health technology in this state.

(b) Local and state law enforcement officers and agencies shall assist the board of nursing in taking and processing of fingerprints of applicants to practice professional or practical nursing or mental health technology in this state and shall release all records of adult convictions and nonconvictions and adult convictions or adjudications of another state or country to the board of nursing.

(c) The board shall fix a fee for fingerprinting of applicants or licensees, or both, as may be required by the board in an amount necessary to reimburse the board for the cost of the fingerprinting. Fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the criminal background and fingerprinting fund.

(d) There is hereby created in the state treasury the criminal background and fingerprinting fund. All moneys credited to the fund shall be used to pay the Kansas bureau of investigation for the processing of fingerprints and criminal history background checks for the board of nursing.

ing. The fund shall be administered by the board of nursing. All expenditures from the fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the president of the board or a person designated by the president.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 65-2836 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-2836. A licensee's license may be revoked, suspended or limited, or the licensee may be publicly or privately censured or *placed under probationary conditions*, or an application for a license or for reinstatement of a license may be denied upon a finding of the existence of any of the following grounds:

(a) The licensee has committed fraud or misrepresentation in applying for or securing an original, renewal or reinstated license.

(b) The licensee has committed an act of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct or professional incompetency, *except that the board may take appropriate disciplinary action or enter into a non-disciplinary resolution when a licensee has engaged in any conduct or professional practice on a single occasion that, if continued, would reasonably be expected to constitute an inability to practice the healing arts with reasonable skill and safety to patients or unprofessional conduct as defined in K.S.A. 65-2837, and amendments thereto.*

(c) The licensee has been convicted of a felony or class A misdemeanor, whether or not related to the practice of the healing arts. The board shall revoke a licensee's license following conviction of a felony occurring after July 1, 2000, unless a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the board members present and voting determine by clear and convincing evidence that such licensee will not pose a threat to the public in such person's capacity as a licensee and that such person has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust. In the case of a person who has been convicted of a felony and who applies for an original license or to reinstate a canceled license, the application for a license shall be denied unless a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the board members present and voting on such application determine by clear and convincing evidence that such person will not pose a threat to the public in such person's capacity as a licensee and that such person has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust.

(d) The licensee has used fraudulent or false advertisements.

(e) The licensee is addicted to or has distributed intoxicating liquors or drugs for any other than lawful purposes.

(f) The licensee has willfully or repeatedly violated this act, the pharmacy act of the state of Kansas or the uniform controlled substances act, or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, or any rules and regulations of the secretary of health and environment which are relevant to the practice of the healing arts.

(g) The licensee has unlawfully invaded the field of practice of any branch of the healing arts in which the licensee is not licensed to practice.

(h) The licensee has engaged in the practice of the healing arts under a false or assumed name, or the impersonation of another practitioner. The provisions of this subsection relating to an assumed name shall not apply to licensees practicing under a professional corporation or other legal entity duly authorized to provide such professional services in the state of Kansas.

(i) The licensee has the inability to practice the healing arts with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of physical or mental illness, or condition or use of alcohol, drugs or controlled substances. In determining whether or not such inability exists, the board, upon reasonable suspicion of such inability, shall have authority to compel a licensee to submit to mental or physical examination or drug screen, or any combination thereof, by such persons as the board may designate either in the course of an investigation or a disciplinary proceeding. To determine whether reasonable suspicion of such inability exists, the investigative information shall be presented to the board as a whole, to a review committee of professional peers of the licensee established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2840c and amendments thereto or to a committee consisting of the officers of the board elected pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2818 and amendments thereto and the executive director appointed pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2878 and amendments thereto or to a presiding officer authorized pursuant to K.S.A. 77-514 and amendments thereto. The determination shall be made by a majority vote of the entity which reviewed the investigative information. Information submitted to the board as a whole or a review com-

mittee of peers or a committee of the officers and executive director of the board and all reports, findings and other records shall be confidential and not subject to discovery by or release to any person or entity. The licensee shall submit to the board a release of information authorizing the board to obtain a report of such examination or drug screen, or both. A person affected by this subsection shall be offered, at reasonable intervals, an opportunity to demonstrate that such person can resume the competent practice of the healing arts with reasonable skill and safety to patients. For the purpose of this subsection, every person licensed to practice the healing arts and who shall accept the privilege to practice the healing arts in this state by so practicing or by the making and filing of a renewal to practice the healing arts in this state shall be deemed to have consented to submit to a mental or physical examination or a drug screen, or any combination thereof, when directed in writing by the board and further to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the testimony, drug screen or examination report of the person conducting such examination or drug screen, or both, at any proceeding or hearing before the board on the ground that such testimony or examination or drug screen report constitutes a privileged communication. In any proceeding by the board pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the record of such board proceedings involving the mental and physical examination or drug screen, or any combination thereof, shall not be used in any other administrative or judicial proceeding.

(j) The licensee has had a license to practice the healing arts revoked, suspended or limited, has been censured or has had other disciplinary action taken, or an application for a license denied, by the proper licensing authority of another state, territory, District of Columbia, or other country, a certified copy of the record of the action of the other jurisdiction being conclusive evidence thereof.

(k) The licensee has violated any lawful rule and regulation promulgated by the board or violated any lawful order or directive of the board previously entered by the board.

(l) The licensee has failed to report or reveal the knowledge required to be reported or revealed under K.S.A. 65-28,122 and amendments thereto.

(m) The licensee, if licensed to practice medicine and surgery, has failed to inform in writing a patient suffering from any form of abnormality of the breast tissue for which surgery is a recommended form of treatment, of alternative methods of treatment recognized by licensees of the same profession in the same or similar communities as being acceptable under like conditions and circumstances.

(n) The licensee has cheated on or attempted to subvert the validity of the examination for a license.

(o) The licensee has been found to be mentally ill, disabled, not guilty by reason of insanity, not guilty because the licensee suffers from a mental disease or defect or incompetent to stand trial by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(p) The licensee has prescribed, sold, administered, distributed or given a controlled substance to any person for other than medically accepted or lawful purposes.

(q) The licensee has violated a federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances.

(r) The licensee has failed to furnish the board, or its investigators or representatives, any information legally requested by the board.

(s) Sanctions or disciplinary actions have been taken against the licensee by a peer review committee, health care facility, a governmental agency or department or a professional association or society for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

(t) The licensee has failed to report to the board any adverse action taken against the licensee by another state or licensing jurisdiction, a peer review body, a health care facility, a professional association or society, a governmental agency, by a law enforcement agency or a court for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

(u) The licensee has surrendered a license or authorization to practice the healing arts in another state or jurisdiction, has surrendered the authority to utilize controlled substances issued by any state or federal agency, has agreed to a limitation to or restriction of privileges at any

medical care facility or has surrendered the licensee's membership on any professional staff or in any professional association or society while under investigation for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

(v) The licensee has failed to report to the board surrender of the licensee's license or authorization to practice the healing arts in another state or jurisdiction or surrender of the licensee's membership on any professional staff or in any professional association or society while under investigation for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

(w) The licensee has an adverse judgment, award or settlement against the licensee resulting from a medical liability claim related to acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

(x) The licensee has failed to report to the board any adverse judgment, settlement or award against the licensee resulting from a medical malpractice liability claim related to acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

(y) The licensee has failed to maintain a policy of professional liability insurance as required by K.S.A. 40-3402 or 40-3403a and amendments thereto.

(z) The licensee has failed to pay the premium surcharges as required by K.S.A. 40-3404 and amendments thereto.

(aa) The licensee has knowingly submitted any misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representation on a claim form, bill or statement.

(bb) The licensee as the responsible physician for a physician assistant has failed to adequately direct and supervise the physician assistant in accordance with the physician assistant licensure act or rules and regulations adopted under such act.

(cc) The licensee has assisted suicide in violation of K.S.A. 21-3406, *and amendments thereto*, as established by any of the following:

(A) A copy of the record of criminal conviction or plea of guilty for a felony in violation of K.S.A. 21-3406, and amendments thereto.

(B) A copy of the record of a judgment of contempt of court for violating an injunction issued under K.S.A. ~~2002-Supp.~~ 60-4404, and amendments thereto.

(C) A copy of the record of a judgment assessing damages under K.S.A. ~~2002-Supp.~~ 60-4405, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 65-2837 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-2837. As used in K.S.A. 65-2836, and amendments thereto, and in this section:

(a) "Professional incompetency" means:

(1) One or more instances involving failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care to a degree which constitutes gross negligence, as determined by the board.

(2) Repeated instances involving failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care to a degree which constitutes ordinary negligence, as determined by the board.

(3) A pattern of practice or other behavior which demonstrates a manifest incapacity or incompetence to practice ~~medicine~~ *the healing arts*.

(b) "Unprofessional conduct" means:

(1) Solicitation of professional patronage through the use of fraudulent or false advertisements, or profiting by the acts of those representing themselves to be agents of the licensee.

(2) Representing to a patient that a manifestly incurable disease, condition or injury can be permanently cured.

(3) Assisting in the care or treatment of a patient without the consent of the patient, the attending physician or the patient's legal representatives.

(4) The use of any letters, words, or terms, as an affix, on stationery, in advertisements, or otherwise indicating that such person is entitled to practice a branch of the healing arts for which such person is not licensed.

(5) Performing, procuring or aiding and abetting in the performance or procurement of a criminal abortion.

(6) Willful betrayal of confidential information.

(7) Advertising professional superiority or the performance of professional services in a superior manner.

(8) Advertising to guarantee any professional service or to perform any operation painlessly.

(9) Participating in any action as a staff member of a medical care facility which is designed to exclude or which results in the exclusion of any person licensed to practice medicine and surgery from the medical staff of a nonprofit medical care facility licensed in this state because of the branch of the healing arts practiced by such person or without just cause.

(10) Failure to effectuate the declaration of a qualified patient as provided in subsection (a) of K.S.A. 65-28,107, and amendments thereto.

(11) Prescribing, ordering, dispensing, administering, selling, supplying or giving any amphetamines or sympathomimetic amines, except as authorized by K.S.A. 65-2837a, and amendments thereto.

(12) Conduct likely to deceive, defraud or harm the public.

(13) Making a false or misleading statement regarding the licensee's skill or the efficacy or value of the drug, treatment or remedy prescribed by the licensee or at the licensee's direction in the treatment of any disease or other condition of the body or mind.

(14) Aiding or abetting the practice of the healing arts by an unlicensed, incompetent or impaired person.

(15) Allowing another person or organization to use the licensee's license to practice the healing arts.

(16) Commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct or ~~exploitation related to the licensee's professional practice~~ *other improper sexual contact, which exploits the licensee-patient relationship, with a patient or a person responsible for health care decisions concerning such patient.*

(17) The use of any false, fraudulent or deceptive statement in any document connected with the practice of the healing arts including the intentional falsifying or fraudulent altering of a patient or medical care facility record.

(18) Obtaining any fee by fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

(19) Directly or indirectly giving or receiving any fee, commission, rebate or other compensation for professional services not actually and personally rendered, other than through the legal functioning of lawful professional partnerships, corporations or associations.

(20) Failure to transfer patient records to another licensee when requested to do so by the subject patient or by such patient's legally designated representative.

(21) Performing unnecessary tests, examinations or services which have no legitimate medical purpose.

(22) Charging an excessive fee for services rendered.

(23) Prescribing, dispensing, administering or distributing a prescription drug or substance, including a controlled substance, in an improper or inappropriate manner, or for other than a valid medical purpose, or not in the course of the licensee's professional practice.

(24) Repeated failure to practice healing arts with that level of care, skill and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar practitioner as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances.

(25) Failure to keep written medical records which accurately describe the services rendered to the patient, including patient histories, pertinent findings, examination results and test results.

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

(27) Using experimental forms of therapy without proper informed patient consent, without conforming to generally accepted criteria or standard protocols, without keeping detailed legible records or without having periodic analysis of the study and results reviewed by a committee or peers.

(28) Prescribing, dispensing, administering or distributing an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for other than a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding, muscle enhancement or increasing muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a person who is in good health is not a valid medical purpose.

(29) Referring a patient to a health care entity for services if the licensee has a significant investment interest in the health care entity, unless the licensee informs the patient in writing of such significant investment interest and that the patient may obtain such services elsewhere.

(30) Failing to properly supervise, direct or delegate acts which constitute the healing arts to persons who perform professional services pursuant to such licensee's direction, supervision, order, referral, delegation or practice protocols.

(31) Violating K.S.A. 65-6703 and amendments thereto.

(32) Charging, billing or otherwise soliciting payment from any patient, patient's representative or insurer for anatomic pathology services, if such services are not personally rendered by the licensee or under such licensee's direct supervision. As used in this subsection, "anatomic pathology services" means the gross or microscopic examination of histologic processing of human organ tissue or the examination of human cells from fluids, aspirates, washings, brushings or smears, including blood-banking services, and subcellular or molecular pathology services, performed by or under the supervision of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a clinical laboratory. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit billing for anatomic pathology services by a hospital, or by a clinical laboratory when samples are transferred between clinical laboratories for the provision of anatomic pathology services.

(33) *Engaging in conduct which violates patient trust and exploits the licensee-patient relationship for personal gain.*

(c) "False advertisement" means any advertisement which is false, misleading or deceptive in a material respect. In determining whether any advertisement is misleading, there shall be taken into account not only representations made or suggested by statement, word, design, device, sound or any combination thereof, but also the extent to which the advertisement fails to reveal facts material in the light of such representations made.

(d) "Advertisement" means all representations disseminated in any manner or by any means, for the purpose of inducing, or which are likely to induce, directly or indirectly, the purchase of professional services.

(e) "Licensee" for purposes of this section and K.S.A. 65-2836, and amendments thereto, shall mean all persons issued a license, permit or special permit pursuant to article 28 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

(f) "License" for purposes of this section and K.S.A. 65-2836, and amendments thereto, shall mean any license, permit or special permit granted under article 28 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

(g) "Health care entity" means any corporation, firm, partnership or other business entity which provides services for diagnosis or treatment of human health conditions and which is owned separately from a referring licensee's principle practice.

(h) "Significant investment interest" means ownership of at least 10% of the value of the firm, partnership or other business entity which owns or leases the health care entity, or ownership of at least 10% of the shares of stock of the corporation which owns or leases the health care entity.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 65-2878 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-2878. (a) The board shall appoint an executive director, subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto. The executive director shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act and shall receive a salary fixed by the board and approved by the governor. The executive director shall not be a member of the board. Under the supervision of the board, the executive director shall be the chief administrative officer of the board and shall perform such duties as may be specified by the board and as may be required by law. The executive director shall be the custodian of the common seal of the board, the books and records of the board and shall keep minutes of all board proceedings.

(b) The board may employ an administrative assistant. The administrative assistant shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act and shall receive a salary fixed by the board and approved by the governor. Under the supervision of the executive director, the administrative assistant shall assist the executive director in the performance of the duties of the executive director.

(c) The board may employ such clerical and other employees, who shall be in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act, as it considers necessary in order to administer and execute, under the supervision of the executive director, the provisions of this act or other statutes delegating duties and responsibilities to the board, except that any attorney employed by the board shall be in the unclassified service under the

Kansas civil service act and shall receive a salary fixed by the board and approved by the governor.

(d) As necessary, the board shall be represented by an attorney appointed by the attorney general as provided by law, whose compensation shall be determined and paid by the board with the approval of the governor.

(e) *The board may contract with one or more persons who are licensed to practice the healing arts in this state and who are not members of the board to provide such advice and assistance as necessary on: Licensure matters including review, investigation and disposition of complaints; clinical and patient care matters; and the ethical conduct and professional practice of licensees; or to perform other duties as assigned by the executive director or the board.*

Sec. 9. K.S.A. 65-2836 and 65-2878 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 65-2837 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved May 14, 2008.
