

FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008

SB 415/a

February 1, 2008

Madam President:

Your **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

SENATE BILL 415

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:

1. On page 1, line 12, strike "; CREATING A FUND".
2. On page 1, line 17, strike "12" and insert in lieu thereof "10".
3. On page 5, line 8, strike "or".
4. On page 5, line 11, strike the period and insert in lieu thereof "; or".
5. On page 5, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following new paragraph:

"(3) an osteopathic physician licensed by the board of osteopathic medical examiners."
6. On page 8, line 7, strike "three" and insert in lieu thereof "two".
7. On page 8, line 8, strike "three-year" and insert in lieu thereof "five-year".
8. On pages 8 through 11, strike Sections 10 and 11 in their entirety.
9. Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.
10. On page 14, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following new sections:

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 2

"Section 12. Section 61-6-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 46, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-6-15. LICENSE MAY BE REFUSED, REVOKED OR SUSPENDED--LICENSEE MAY BE FINED, CENSURED OR REPRIMANDED--PROCEDURE--PRACTICE AFTER SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION--PENALTY--UNPROFESSIONAL AND DISHONORABLE CONDUCT DEFINED--FEES AND EXPENSES.--

A. The board may refuse to license and may revoke or suspend a license that has been issued by the board or a previous board and may fine, censure or reprimand a licensee upon satisfactory proof being made to the board that the applicant for or holder of the license has been guilty of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct. The board may also refuse to license an applicant who is unable to practice medicine, [~~or~~] practice as a physician assistant or an anesthesiologist assistant or practice genetic counseling, pursuant to Section 61-7-3 NMSA 1978. All proceedings shall be as required by the Uniform Licensing Act or the Impaired Health Care Provider Act.

B. The board may, in its discretion and for good cause shown, place the licensee on probation on the terms and conditions it deems proper for protection of the public, for the purpose of rehabilitation of the probationer or both. Upon expiration of the term of probation, if a term is set, further proceedings may be abated by the board if the holder of the license furnishes the board with evidence that the licensee is competent to practice, is of good moral character and has complied with the terms of probation.

C. If evidence fails to establish to the satisfaction of the board that the licensee is competent and is of good moral character or if evidence shows that the licensee has not complied with the terms of probation, the board may revoke or suspend the license. If a license to practice in this state is suspended, the holder of the license may not practice during the term of suspension. A person whose license has been revoked or suspended by

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 3

the board and who thereafter practices or attempts or offers to practice in New Mexico, unless the period of suspension has expired or been modified by the board or the license reinstated, is guilty of a felony and shall be punished as provided in Section 61-6-20 NMSA 1978.

D. "Unprofessional or dishonorable conduct", as used in this section, means, but is not limited to because of enumeration, conduct of a licensee that includes the following:

- (1) procuring, aiding or abetting a criminal abortion;
- (2) employing a person to solicit patients for the licensee;
- (3) representing to a patient that a manifestly incurable condition of sickness, disease or injury can be cured;
- (4) obtaining a fee by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (5) willfully or negligently divulging a professional confidence;
- (6) conviction of an offense punishable by incarceration in a state penitentiary or federal prison or conviction of a misdemeanor associated with the practice of the licensee. A copy of the record of conviction, certified by the clerk of the court entering the conviction, is conclusive evidence;
- (7) habitual or excessive use of intoxicants or drugs;
- (8) fraud or misrepresentation in applying for or procuring a license to practice in this state or in connection with applying for or procuring renewal, including cheating on or attempting to subvert the licensing examinations;

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 4

(9) making false or misleading statements regarding the skill of the licensee or the efficacy or value of the medicine, treatment or remedy prescribed or administered by the licensee or at the direction of the licensee in the treatment of a disease or other condition of the human body or mind;

(10) impersonating another licensee, permitting or allowing a person to use the license of the licensee or practicing as a licensee under a false or assumed name;

(11) aiding or abetting the practice of a person not licensed by the board;

(12) gross negligence in the practice of a licensee;

(13) manifest incapacity or incompetence to practice as a licensee;

(14) discipline imposed on a licensee by another state, including denial, probation, suspension or revocation, based upon acts by the licensee similar to acts described in this section. A certified copy of the record of suspension or revocation of the state making the suspension or revocation is conclusive evidence;

(15) the use of a false, fraudulent or deceptive statement in a document connected with the practice of a licensee;

(16) fee splitting;

(17) the prescribing, administering or dispensing of narcotic, stimulant or hypnotic drugs for other than accepted therapeutic purposes;

(18) conduct likely to deceive, defraud or harm the public;

(19) repeated similar negligent acts;

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 5

(20) employing abusive billing practices;

(21) failure to report to the board any adverse action taken against the licensee by:

(a) another licensing jurisdiction;

(b) a peer review body;

(c) a health care entity;

(d) a professional or medical society or association;

(e) a governmental agency;

(f) a law enforcement agency; or

(g) a court for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as defined in this section;

(22) failure to report to the board surrender of a license or other authorization to practice in another state or jurisdiction or surrender of membership on any medical staff or in any medical or professional association or society following, in lieu of and while under disciplinary investigation by any of those authorities or bodies for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as defined in this section;

(23) failure to furnish the board, its investigators or representatives with information requested by the board;

(24) abandonment of patients;

(25) being found mentally incompetent or insane by a court of competent jurisdiction;

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 6

(26) injudicious prescribing, administering or dispensing of a drug or medicine;

(27) failure to adequately supervise, as provided by board rule, a medical or surgical assistant or technician or professional licensee who renders health care;

(28) sexual contact with a patient or person who has authority to make medical decisions for a patient, other than the spouse of the licensee;

(29) conduct unbecoming in a person licensed to practice or detrimental to the best interests of the public;

(30) the surrender of a license or withdrawal of an application for a license before another state licensing board while an investigation or disciplinary action is pending before that board for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action pursuant to this section;

(31) sexual contact with a former mental health patient of the licensee, other than the spouse of the licensee, within one year from the end of treatment;

(32) sexual contact with a patient when the licensee uses or exploits treatment, knowledge, emotions or influence derived from the previous professional relationship;

(33) improper management of medical records, including failure to maintain timely, accurate, legible and complete medical records;

(34) failure to provide pertinent and necessary medical records to a physician or patient of the physician in a timely manner when legally requested to do so by the patient or by a legally designated representative of the patient;

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 7

(35) undertreatment of pain as provided by board rule;

(36) interaction with physicians, hospital personnel, patients, family members or others that interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to adversely impact the quality of care rendered to a patient;

(37) soliciting or receiving compensation by a physician assistant or anesthesiologist assistant from a person who is not an employer of the assistant; or

(38) willfully or negligently divulging privileged information or a professional secret.

E. As used in this section, "fee splitting" includes offering, delivering, receiving or accepting any unearned rebate, refunds, commission preference, patronage dividend, discount or other unearned consideration, whether in the form of money or otherwise, as compensation or inducement for referring patients, clients or customers to a person, irrespective of any membership, proprietary interest or co-ownership in or with a person to whom the patients, clients or customers are referred.

F. Licensees whose licenses are in a probationary status shall pay reasonable expenses for maintaining probationary status, including laboratory costs when laboratory testing of biological fluids are included as a condition of probation."

Section 13. Section 61-6-31 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 269, Section 27, as amended) is amended to read:

"61-6-31. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS--NEW MEXICO MEDICAL BOARD FUND CREATED--METHOD OF PAYMENTS.--

A. There is created the "New Mexico medical board fund".

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 8

B. All funds received by the board and money collected under the Medical Practice Act, the Physician Assistant Act, the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act, the Genetic Counseling Act and the Impaired Health Care Provider Act shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall place the same to the credit of the New Mexico medical board fund.

C. All payments out of the fund shall be made on vouchers issued and signed by the secretary-treasurer of the board or the designee of the secretary-treasurer upon warrants drawn by the department of finance and administration in accordance with the budget approved by that department.

D. All amounts in the New Mexico medical board fund shall be subject to the order of the board and shall be used only for the purpose of meeting necessary expenses incurred in:

(1) the performance of the provisions of the Medical Practice Act, the Physician Assistant Act, the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act, the Genetic Counseling Act and the Impaired Health Care Provider Act and the duties and powers imposed by those acts; and

(2) the promotion of medical education and standards in this state within the budgetary limits.

E. All funds that may have accumulated to the credit of the board under any previous law shall be transferred to the New Mexico medical board fund and shall continue to be available for use by the board in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act, the Physician Assistant Act, the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act, the Genetic Counseling Act and the Impaired Health Care Provider Act. All money unused at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert, but shall remain in the fund for use in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act, the Physician Assistant Act, the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act, the Genetic Counseling Act and the Impaired Health Care Provider Act."",

**FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2008**

SPAC/SB 415

Page 9

and thence referred to the **FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dede Feldman, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

No: 0

Excused: Ingle, Komadina, Morales, Ortiz y Pino

Absent: None

SB0415PA1

.172526.3