

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1158

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Medical Examiners)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-17 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to exceptions to the licensure requirements to practice medicine; and to
3 amend and reenact sections 43-17-01, 43-17-02, 43-17-06, 43-17-30.1, and 43-17-31 of the
4 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definitions of practice of medicine and telemedicine,
5 persons exempt from medical practice licensure requirements, officers of the board of medical
6 examiners, and disciplinary action of the board.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-17-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **43-17-01. Definitions.**

- 11 1. "Board" means the state board of medical examiners.
- 12 2. "Physician" includes physician and surgeon (M.D.) and osteopathic physician and
13 surgeon (D.O.).
- 14 ~~2.~~ 3. "Practice of medicine" includes the practice of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics.
15 The following persons must be regarded as practicing medicine:
- 16 a. One who holds ~~himself~~ out to the public as being engaged within this state in
17 the diagnosis or treatment of diseases or injuries of human beings.
- 18 b. One who suggests, recommends, or prescribes any form of treatment for the
19 intended relief or cure of any physical or mental ailment of any person, with
20 the intention of receiving, directly or indirectly, any fee, gift, or compensation.
- 21 c. One who maintains an office for the examination or treatment of persons
22 afflicted with disease or injury of the body or mind.
- 23 d. One who attaches the title M.D., surgeon, doctor, D.O., osteopathic physician
24 and surgeon, or any other similar word or words or abbreviation to ~~his~~ the

1 person's name, indicating that ~~he~~ the person is engaged in the treatment or
2 diagnosis of the diseases or injuries of human beings must be held to be
3 engaged in the practice of medicine.

4 e. One who practices telemedicine.

5 ~~3. "Board" means the state board of medical examiners.~~

6 4. "Telemedicine" means the practice of medicine by means of interactive audio,
7 video, or data communications.

8 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-17-02 of the 1997 Supplement to the North
9 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **43-17-02. Persons exempt from the provisions of chapter.** The provisions of this
11 chapter do not apply to the following:

12 1. Students of medicine or osteopathy who are continuing their training and
13 performing the duties of a resident in any hospital or institution maintained and
14 operated by the state, an agency of the federal government, or in any residency
15 program accredited by the accreditation council on graduate medical education,
16 provided that the state board of medical examiners may adopt rules relating to the
17 licensure, fees, qualifications, activities, scope of practice, and discipline of such
18 persons.

19 ~~2. Any physician residing on the border of a neighboring state and duly licensed~~
20 ~~under the laws thereof, who does not open an office or appoint a place to meet~~
21 ~~patients or to receive calls within this state.~~

22 ~~3.~~ The domestic administration of family remedies.

23 ~~4.~~ 3. Dentists practicing their profession when properly licensed.

24 ~~5.~~ 4. Optometrists practicing their profession when properly licensed.

25 ~~6.~~ 5. The practice of Christian Science or other religious tenets or religious rules or
26 ceremonies as a form of religious worship, devotion, or healing, if the person
27 administering, making use of, assisting in, or prescribing, such religious worship,
28 devotion, or healing does not prescribe or administer drugs or medicines and does
29 not perform surgical or physical operations, and if ~~he~~ the person does not hold
30 ~~himself~~ out to be a physician or surgeon.

1 of the board. ~~He~~ The secretary-treasurer must be the general administrative and prosecuting
2 officer of such board.

3 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-17-30.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **43-17-30.1. Disciplinary action.** The board is authorized to take disciplinary action
6 against a licensed physician by any one or more of the following means, as it may find
7 appropriate:

- 8 1. Revocation of license.
- 9 2. Suspension of license.
- 10 3. Probation.
- 11 4. Imposition of stipulations, limitations, or conditions relating to the practice of
12 medicine.
- 13 5. ~~Reprimand.~~
- 14 ~~6.~~ Letter of censure.
- 15 ~~7.~~ Letter of concern.
- 16 ~~8.~~ 6. Require the licensee to provide free public or charitable service for a defined
17 period.
- 18 ~~9.~~ 7. Impose fines, not to exceed five thousand dollars for any single disciplinary action;
19 ~~in a case of failure to comply with statutory reporting requirements, or a violation of~~
20 ~~examination security.~~ Any fines collected by the state board of medical examiners
21 must be deposited in the state general fund.

22 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-17-31 of the 1997 Supplement to the North
23 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **43-17-31. Grounds for disciplinary action.** Disciplinary action may be imposed
25 against a physician upon any of the following grounds:

- 26 1. The use of any false, fraudulent, or forged statement or document, or the use of
27 any fraudulent, deceitful, dishonest, or immoral practice, in connection with any of
28 the licensing requirements.
- 29 2. The making of false or misleading statements about the physician's skill or the
30 efficacy of any medicine, treatment, or remedy.

- 1 3. The conviction of any misdemeanor determined by the board to have a direct
2 bearing upon a person's ability to serve the public as a practitioner of medicine or
3 any felony. A license may not be withheld contrary to the provisions of chapter
4 12.1-33.
- 5 4. Habitual use of alcohol or drugs.
- 6 5. Physical or mental disability materially affecting the ability to perform the duties of
7 a physician in a competent manner.
- 8 6. The performance of any dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct likely
9 to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.
- 10 7. Obtaining any fee by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- 11 8. Aiding or abetting the practice of medicine by an unlicensed, incompetent, or
12 impaired person.
- 13 9. The violation of any provision of a medical practice act or the rules and regulations
14 of the board, or any action, stipulation, condition, or agreement imposed by the
15 board or the commission on medical competency.
- 16 10. The practice of medicine under a false or assumed name.
- 17 11. The advertising for the practice of medicine in an untrue or deceptive manner.
- 18 12. The representation to a patient that a manifestly incurable condition, sickness,
19 disease, or injury can be cured.
- 20 13. The willful or negligent violation of the confidentiality between physician and
21 patient, except as required by law.
- 22 14. The failure of a doctor of osteopathy to designate that person's school of practice
23 in the professional use of that person's name by such terms as "osteopathic
24 physician and surgeon", "doctor of osteopathy", "D.O.", or similar terms.
- 25 15. Gross negligence in the practice of medicine.
- 26 16. Sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the licensee's practice of
27 medicine.
- 28 17. The prescription, sale, administration, distribution, or gift of any drug legally
29 classified as a controlled substance or as an addictive or dangerous drug for other
30 than medically accepted therapeutic purposes.

- 1 18. The payment or receipt, directly or indirectly, of any fee, commission, rebate, or
2 other compensation for medical services not actually or personally rendered, or for
3 patient referrals; this prohibition does not affect the lawful distributions of
4 professional partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, or associations.
- 5 19. The failure to comply with the reporting requirements of section 43-17.1-05.1.
- 6 20. The failure to transfer medical records, except those relating to psychiatric
7 treatment which must be governed by board rule, to another physician or to supply
8 copies thereof to the patient or to the patient's representative when requested to
9 do so by the patient or the patient's designated representative. A reasonable
10 charge for record copies may be assessed.
- 11 21. A continued pattern of inappropriate care as a physician, including unnecessary
12 surgery.
- 13 22. The use of any false, fraudulent, or deceptive statement in any document
14 connected with the practice of medicine.
- 15 23. The prescribing, selling, administering, distributing, or giving to oneself or to one's
16 spouse or child any drug legally classified as a controlled substance or recognized
17 as an addictive or dangerous drug.
- 18 24. The violation of any state or federal statute or regulation relating to controlled
19 substances.
- 20 25. The imposition by another state or jurisdiction of disciplinary action against a
21 license or other authorization to practice medicine based upon acts or conduct by
22 the physician that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in
23 this section. A certified copy of the record of the action taken by the other state or
24 jurisdiction is conclusive evidence of that action.
- 25 26. The lack of appropriate documentation in medical records for diagnosis, testing,
26 and treatment of patients.
- 27 27. The failure to properly monitor a physician assistant, a fluoroscopy technologist, or
28 an emergency medical technician.
- 29 28. The failure to furnish the board or the ~~commission on medical competency~~
30 investigative panel, their investigators, or representatives, information legally
31 requested by the board or the ~~commission~~ investigative panel.

1 29. The practice of telemedicine without acting under the supervision of another
2 licensed physician who is physically located in this state.

3 The board shall keep a record of all of its proceedings in the matter of suspending, revoking, or
4 refusing licenses together with the evidence offered.

5 **SECTION 6.** A new section to chapter 43-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Practice of medicine or osteopathy by holder of permanent, unrestricted license.**

8 Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, any physician who is the holder of a
9 permanent, unrestricted license to practice medicine or osteopathy in any state or territory of
10 the United States, the District of Columbia, or a province of Canada may practice medicine or
11 osteopathy in this state without first obtaining a license from the state board of medical
12 examiners under one or more of the following circumstances:

- 13 1. As a member of an organ harvest team;
14 2. On board an air ambulance and as a part of its treatment team;
15 3. To provide one-time consultation or teaching assistance for a period of not more
16 than twenty-four hours; or
17 4. To provide consultation or teaching assistance previously approved by the board
18 for charitable organizations.