



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 123

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Bacon

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires certain health professionals, when applying for a new or renewed license, to specify information about their practices, including unique characteristics such as specialty areas of practice, age-specific areas of practice, and excluded areas of practice.
- Requires the relevant health professional licensing boards to submit the information to the Department of Administrative Services for posting on the Internet through the Ohio eLicense Center web site.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Overview

The bill requires certain health professionals to provide information regarding the characteristics of their professional practices to their licensing boards when applying for new or renewed licenses. To collect uniform information, the boards are required to establish categories of unique practice characteristics relevant to the professionals they regulate. The information is to be submitted by the boards to the Department of Administrative Services, which is required by the bill to post the information on the Internet through the Ohio eLicense Center web site.

Reporting of health professional practice characteristics

When submitting an initial or renewal license application to a licensing board, each health professional subject to the bill must specify which of the following the applicant intends to do during the licensing period:¹

- (1) To practice within the applicant's scope of practice in a general manner;
- (2) To practice within the applicant's scope of practice by incorporating unique professional practice characteristics;
- (3) To maintain a license but not practice.

If the applicant indicates the intention to incorporate unique professional practice characteristics, the applicant is required to identify those characteristics according to categories established by the licensing board.²

The bill's reporting requirements apply to the following health professionals:³

- Physicians, including podiatrists;
- Dentists;
- Psychologists and school psychologists;
- Clinical counselors and professional clinical counselors;
- Social workers and independent social workers;
- Marriage and family therapists and independent marriage and family therapists;
- Physical therapists and occupational therapists;
- Audiologists and speech-language pathologists;
- Dietitians.

¹ R.C. 4743.10(B)(1).

² R.C. 4743.10(B)(2).

³ R.C. 4743.10(A)(1).

Categories of unique practice characteristics

To obtain uniform information from health professionals, the bill requires the licensing boards to establish categories of unique professional practice characteristics. If a board licenses more than one type of health professional, the board must establish categories that apply to each type of professional. The board may choose to use any or all of the following in establishing the characteristic categories:⁴

- (1) Specialty certifications obtained from private certification agencies;
- (2) Areas of concentration;
- (3) Areas of special interest;
- (4) Areas of particular experience or focused competency;
- (5) Areas included within the health professional's scope of practice that the professional excludes from the professional's practice;
- (6) Formats of practice based on individual or group treatment;
- (7) Age-specific areas of practice based on any or all of the following age groups by year: birth to age 3, ages 4 to 11, ages 12 to 18, ages 19 to 64, and ages 65 and older;
- (8) Any other relevant characteristic categories.

Posting of practice characteristics on the Ohio eLicense Center

Not later than 60 days after issuing an initial or renewed license to a health professional, the appropriate health professional licensing board is required to submit the professional's practice characteristics to the Office of Information Technology in the Department of Administrative Services. On receiving the information, the Office is required to promptly post the information on the Internet through the Ohio eLicense Center. The information is to be posted in a manner that any person who visits the web site will be readily aware of the presence of the information and capable of accessing it with ease.⁵

⁴ R.C. 4743.10(C).

⁵ R.C. 4743.10(D).

The Ohio eLicense Center web site, a portion of which is accessible to the public, currently allows viewing of limited contact, credential, and enforcement data regarding state-licensed professionals.⁶

Use and effect of posted information

Regarding the information about a health professional posted on the Ohio eLicense Center, the bill specifies all of the following:⁷

(1) The information is to be used solely to assist the public in locating appropriate health care services and assisting health professionals in making patient referrals to other health care professionals;

(2) The information does not bar the health professional from engaging in activities within the professional's scope of practice that are not specified in the information or do not conform to the information;

(3) The information does not create more or less liability for the health professional in the provision of health care services;

(4) The information does not alter the standard of care that applies to the health professional in the provision of health care services.

Licensing boards subject to the bill

The following licensing boards must comply with the bill's requirements when issuing or renewing licenses: State Dental Board; State Medical Board; State Board of Psychology; Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board; Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board; and Ohio Board of Dietetics.⁸

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-22-11

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⁶ The Ohio eLicense Center is available at <<https://license.ohio.gov/>>.

⁷ R.C. 4743.10(E).

⁸ R.C. 4715.70, 4731.37, 4732.32, 4753.20, 4755.69, 4757.50, and 4759.15.