HB 1295 2024

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to health care practitioner titles and 3 abbreviations; creating s. 456.0651, F.S.; defining 4 terms; providing that, for specified purposes, the use 5 of specified titles or designations in connection with 6 one's name constitutes the practice of medicine or the 7 practice of osteopathic medicine; providing 8 exceptions; amending s. 456.072, F.S.; revising 9 grounds for disciplinary action relating to a practitioner's use of such titles or designations in 10 11 identifying himself or herself to patients or in 12 advertisements for health care services; revising 13 applicability; requiring certain health care 14 practitioners to prominently display copies of their 15 licenses in a conspicuous area of their practices; 16 requiring that the copy of the license be a specified 17 size; requiring such health care practitioners to also 18 verbally identify themselves in a specified manner to 19 new patients; requiring, rather than authorizing, certain boards or the Department of Health if there is 20 21 no board, to adopt certain rules; providing an effective date. 22 23 24

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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26	Section 1. Section 456.0651, Florida Statutes, is created											
27	to read:											
28	456.0651 Health care practitioner titles and											
29	designations.—											
30	(1) As used in this section, the term:											
31	(a) "Advertisement" means any printed, electronic, or oral											
32	statement that:											
33	1. Is communicated or disseminated to the general public.											
34	2.a. Is intended to encourage a person to use a											
35	practitioner's professional services or to promote those											
36	services or the practitioner in general; or											
37	b. For commercial purposes, names a practitioner in											
38	connection with the practice, profession, or institution in											
39	which the practitioner is employed, volunteers, or provides											
40	health care services.											
11	3. Is prepared, communicated, or disseminated under the											
12	control of the practitioner or with the practitioner's consent.											
13	(b) "Educational degree" means the degree awarded to a											
14	practitioner by a college or university relating to the											
45	practitioner's profession or specialty designation which may be											
46	referenced in an advertisement by name or acronym.											
17	(c) "Misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent representation"											
18	means any information that misrepresents or falsely describes a											
19	practitioner's profession, skills, training, expertise,											
50	educational degree, board certification, or licensure.											

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51	(d) "Practitioner" means a health care practitioner as
52	<u>defined in s. 456.001.</u>
53	(e) "Profession" in addition to the meaning provided in s.
54	456.001, also means the name or title of a practitioner's
55	profession that is regulated by the department in the Division
56	of Medical Quality Assurance and which is allowed to be used by
57	an individual due to his or her license, license by endorsement,
58	certification, or registration issued by a board or the
59	department. The term does not include a practitioner's license
60	or educational degree.
61	(2) For purposes of this section and s. 456.065, in
62	addition to the definition of "practice of medicine" in s.
63	458.305 and the definition of "practice of osteopathic medicine"
64	in s. 459.003, the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine
65	also includes attaching to one's name, either alone or in
66	combination, or in connection with other words, any of the
67	following titles or designations, if used in an advertisement or
68	in a manner that constitutes a misleading, deceptive, or
69	<pre>fraudulent representation:</pre>
70	(a) Doctor of medicine.
71	<u>(b) M.D.</u>
72	(c) Doctor of osteopathy.
73	(d) D.O.
74	(e) Physician.
75	(f) Emergency physician.

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76
                Family physician.
           (g)
 77
                Interventional pain physician.
           (h)
 78
           (i)
                Medical doctor.
 79
           (j)
                Osteopath.
           (k)
                Osteopathic physician.
 80
                Doctor of osteopathic medicine.
 81
           (1)
 82
           (m)
                Surgeon.
 83
                Neurosurgeon.
           (n)
 84
           (\circ)
                General surgeon.
 85
           (p)
                Resident physician.
 86
           (q)
                Medical resident.
                Medical intern.
 87
           (r)
 88
           (s)
                Anesthesiologist.
 89
                Cardiologist.
           (t)
 90
                Dermatologist.
           (u)
                Endocrinologist.
 91
           (V)
 92
           (W)
                Gastroenterologist.
                Gynecologist.
 93
           (x)
 94
           (y)
                Hematologist.
 95
                Hospitalist.
           (z)
 96
           (aa)
                 Intensivist.
 97
           (bb)
                 Internist.
 98
                 Laryngologist.
           (cc)
 99
           (dd)
                 Nephrologist.
100
           (ee)
                 Neurologist.
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101	(ff) Obstetrician.								
102	(gg) Oncologist.								
103	(hh) Ophthalmologist.								
L O 4	(ii) Orthopedic surgeon.								
105	(jj) Orthopedist.								
106	(kk) Otologist.								
107	(11) Otolaryngologist.								
108	(mm) Otorhinolaryngologist.								
109	(nn) Pathologist.								
110	(oo) Pediatrician.								
111	(pp) Primary care physician.								
112	(qq) Proctologist.								
113	(rr) Psychiatrist.								
114	(ss) Radiologist.								
115	(tt) Rheumatologist.								
116	(uu) Rhinologist.								
117	(vv) Urologist.								
118	(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2):								
119	(a) A licensed practitioner may use the name or title of								
120	his or her profession which is authorized under his or her								
121	practice act, and any corresponding designations or initials so								
122	2 <u>authorized</u> , to describe himself or herself and his or her								
123	practice.								
124	(b) A licensed practitioner who has a specialty area of								
125	practice authorized under his or her practice act may use the								

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following format to identify himself or herself or describe his or her practice: "...(name or title of the practitioner's profession)..., specializing in ...(name of the practitioner's specialty)...."

- may use the titles "chiropractic physician," "doctor of chiropractic medicine," "chiropractic radiologist," and other titles, abbreviations, or designations authorized under his or her practice act or reflecting those chiropractic specialty areas in which the chiropractic physician has attained diplomate status as recognized by the American Chiropractic Association, the International Chiropractors Association, the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association.
- (d) A podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461 may use the following titles and abbreviations as applicable to his or her license, specialty, and certification: "podiatric physician," "podiatric surgeon," "Fellow in the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons," and other titles or abbreviations authorized under his or her practice act.
- (e) A dentist licensed under chapter 466 may use the following titles and abbreviations as applicable to his or her license, specialty, and certification: "doctor of medicine in dentistry," "doctor of dental medicine," "D.M.D.," "doctor of dental surgery," "D.D.S.," "oral surgeon," "maxillofacial

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151	surgeon," "oral and maxillofacial surgeon," "O.M.S.," "oral
152	radiologist," "dental anesthesiologist," "oral pathologist," and
153	other titles or abbreviations authorized under his or her
154	practice act.
155	(f) An anesthesiologist assistant licensed under chapter
156	458 or chapter 459 may use only the titles "anesthesiologist
157	assistant" or "certified anesthesiologist assistant" and the
158	abbreviation "C.A.A."
159	(g) An optometrist licensed under chapter 463 may use the
160	following titles and abbreviations as applicable to his or her
161	license, specialty, and certification: "doctor of optometry,"
162	"optometric physician," and other titles or abbreviations
163	authorized under his or her practice act.
164	Section 2. Paragraph (t) of subsection (1) of section
165	456.072, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
166	456.072 Grounds for discipline; penalties; enforcement.—
167	(1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which
168	the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be
169	taken:
170	(t)1. A practitioner's failure, when treating or
171	consulting with a patient, Failing to identify through written
172	notice, which may include the wearing of a name tag the
173	practitioner's name and, or orally to a patient the profession,
174	as defined in s. 456.0651, type of license under which the
175	practitioner is practicing. The information on the name tag must

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be consistent with the specifications of s. 456.0651(2) such that it does not constitute the unlicensed practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

- 2. The failure of any advertisement for health care services naming the practitioner to must identify the profession, as defined in s. 456.0651, under which the practitioner is practicing and the practitioner's educational degree, as defined in s. 456.0651, in relation to the services featured in the advertisement type of license the practitioner holds.
- 3. Subparagraph 1. This paragraph does not apply to a practitioner while the practitioner is providing services in his or her own office that houses his or her practice or group practice. In such a case, in lieu of a name tag, the practitioner must prominently display a copy of his or her license in a conspicuous area of the practice so that it is easily visible to patients. The copy of the license must be no smaller than the original license. The practitioner must also verbally identify himself or herself to a new patient by name and identify the profession, as defined in s. 456.0651, under which the practitioner is practicing. Such verbal identification must be consistent with the specifications of s. 456.0651(2) such that it does not constitute the unlicensed practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine a facility licensed under chapter 394, chapter 395, chapter 400, or chapter 429.

<u> </u>	1.	Each	board	d, or	the	de	partm	ent	<u>if</u>	where	- th	ere	is	no
board,	, <u>s</u> h	nall =	<del>is aut</del>	hori	<del>zed</del> k	эу	rule	<del>to</del> d	lete	rmine	ho	w it	S	
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requi	reme	ent.												

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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