SENATE BILL NO. 273-SENATOR COPENING

MARCH 18, 2011

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Revises various provisions governing the practice of osteopathic medicine. (BDR 54-959)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to osteopathic medicine; authorizing an osteopathic engage in telemedicine under certain physician to circumstances; authorizing the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to place any condition, limitation or restriction on a license under certain circumstances; requiring an osteopathic physician who performs an autopsy to submit a written report of the findings of the autopsy to the Board under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to submit to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau certain reports compiling disciplinary action taken by the Board against physician assistants; revising provisions governing applications for licensure by the Board; revising certain provisions relating to the renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine; authorizing the Board to prorate the initial license fee for certain licenses; expanding the authority of the Board to discipline a physician assistant for certain conduct; revising provisions requiring certain persons to report information relating to certain malpractice claims to the Board; expanding the authority of the Board to investigate a physician assistant for certain conduct; revising provisions governing certain complaints filed with the Board; authorizing the Board summarily to suspend the license of a physician assistant under certain circumstances; authorizing the Board to seek injunctive relief against an osteopathic physician or physician assistant for engaging in certain conduct; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.





Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to issue, renew and suspend a license to practice osteopathic medicine and to issue and renew a license to practice as a physician assistant in this State. (NRS 633.305-633.501)

Section 2 of this bill authorizes an osteopathic physician to engage in telemedicine if the osteopathic physician is properly licensed and meets certain other criteria. **Section 34** of this bill authorizes the Board to seek injunctive relief against an osteopathic physician for engaging in telemedicine without a required license. **Section 3** of this bill authorizes the Board to place any condition, limitation or restriction on a license issued by the Board under certain circumstances. **Section 4** of this bill requires an osteopathic physician who performs an autopsy and who determines that the death of the decedent is the result of an overdose of a controlled substance or dangerous drug to submit a written report of such findings to the Board

Section 6 of this bill expands the scope of unprofessional conduct, which is subject to regulation by the Board, to include certain actions of a physician assistant. Section 9 of this bill authorizes the Board to reject an application for licensure as an osteopathic physician or physician assistant if the Board has cause to believe that information submitted with the application by the applicant is false, misleading, deceptive or fraudulent. Section 11 of this bill authorizes an osteopathic physician to apply for another temporary license after the expiration of one such license. Section 14 of this bill authorizes the Board to prorate the initial license fee for a new license to practice as an osteopathic physician and physician assistant. Section 12 of this bill shortens certain procedural deadlines with respect to the renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine. Sections 15 and 29 of this bill expand the scope of the authority of the Board to discipline a physician assistant.

Sections 16, 17 and 21 of this bill require the reporting of information relating to certain malpractice claims to the Board, and sections 20 and 21 of this bill expand the scope of certain reporting requirements to include the conduct or investigation of physician assistants. Sections 17 and 29 also expand the applicability of certain administrative fines imposed by the Board.

Sections 19, 22 and 23 of this bill authorize the Board to order a physician assistant to undergo a competency examination under certain circumstances. Section 24 of this bill authorizes the immediate suspension of the license of a physician assistant under certain circumstances. Sections 26 and 34 of this bill authorize the Board to seek injunctive relief against a physician assistant for certain conduct. Section 36 of this bill provides that a person who practices as a physician assistant without a valid license or uses the identity of another person to do so is guilty of a category D felony.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 633 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. An osteopathic physician may engage in telemedicine in this State if he or she possesses an unrestricted license to practice osteopathic medicine in this State pursuant to this chapter. If an osteopathic physician engages in telemedicine with a patient who is physically located in another state or





territory of the United States, the osteopathic physician shall, before engaging in telemedicine with the patient, take any steps necessary to be authorized or licensed to practice osteopathic medicine in the other state or territory of the United States in which the patient is physically located.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4, before an osteopathic physician may engage in telemedicine pursuant to

this section:

- (a) A bona fide relationship between the osteopathic physician and the patient must exist which must include, without limitation, a history and physical examination or consultation which occurred in person and which was sufficient to establish a diagnosis and identify any underlying medical conditions of the patient.
- (b) The osteopathic physician must obtain informed, written consent from the patient or the legal representative of the patient to engage in telemedicine with the patient. The osteopathic physician shall maintain the consent form as part of the permanent medical record of the patient.
- (c) The osteopathic physician must inform the patient, both orally and in writing:
- (1) That the patient or the legal representative of the patient may withdraw the consent provided pursuant to paragraph (b) at any time;
- (2) Of the potential risks, consequences and benefits of telemedicine;
- (3) Whether the osteopathic physician has a financial interest in the Internet website used to engage in telemedicine or in the products or services provided to the patient via telemedicine;
- (4) That the transmission of any confidential medical information while engaged in telemedicine is subject to all applicable federal and state laws with respect to the protection of and access to confidential medical information; and
- (5) That the osteopathic physician will not release any confidential medical information without the express, written consent of the patient or the legal representative of the patient.
- 3. An osteopathic physician is not required to comply with the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 if the osteopathic physician engages in telemedicine for the purposes of making a diagnostic interpretation of a medical examination, study or test of the patient.
- 4. An osteopathic physician is not required to comply with the provisions of paragraph (a) or (c) of subsection 2 in an emergency medical situation.





5. The provisions of this section must not be interpreted or construed to:

(a) Modify, expand or alter the scope of practice of an

osteopathic physician pursuant to this chapter; or

 (b) Authorize the practice of osteopathic medicine or delivery of care by an osteopathic physician in a setting that is not authorized by law or in a manner that violates the standard of care required of an osteopathic physician pursuant to this chapter.

- 6. As used in this section, "telemedicine" means the practice of osteopathic medicine through the synchronous or asynchronous transfer of medical data or information using interactive audio, video or data communication, other than through a standard telephone, facsimile transmission or electronic mail message.
- Sec. 3. 1. The Board may place any condition, limitation or restriction on any license issued pursuant to this chapter if the Board determines that such action is necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare.
- 2. The Board shall not report any condition, limitation or restriction placed on a license pursuant to this section to the National Practitioner Data Bank unless the licensee fails to comply with the condition, limitation or restriction placed on the license. The Board may, upon request, report any such information to an agency of another state which regulates the practice of osteopathic medicine in that State.
- 3. The Board may modify any condition, limitation or restriction placed on a license pursuant to this section if the Board determines that the modification is necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare.
- 4. Any condition, limitation or restriction placed on a license pursuant to this section is not a disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 633.651.
- Sec. 4. 1. Any osteopathic physician who performs an autopsy in this State and who determines that the death of the decedent is the result of an overdose of a controlled substance or a dangerous drug shall, within 30 days after making the determination, submit to the Board a written report of the findings of the autopsy, and provide to the Board any other information requested by the Board.
- 2. Upon receipt of a report submitted pursuant to subsection 1, the Board shall investigate the death of the decedent to determine whether the conduct of any osteopathic physician contributed to the death of the decedent.
- 3. As used in this section, "dangerous drug" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 454.201.





- **Sec. 5.** NRS 633.071 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.071 "Malpractice" means failure on the part of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill ordinarily exercised by osteopathic physicians *or physician assistants* in good standing in the community in which he or she practices.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 633.131 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 633.131 1. "Unprofessional conduct" includes:
- (a) Willfully making a false or fraudulent statement or submitting a forged or false document in applying for a license to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant, or in applying for the renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant.
- (b) Failure of a [licensee of the] person who is licensed to practice [of] osteopathic medicine to [designate his or her school of practice in the professional use of his or her name by] identify himself or herself professionally by using the term D.O., osteopathic physician, doctor of osteopathy or a similar term.
- (c) Directly or indirectly giving to or receiving from any person, corporation or other business organization any fee, commission, rebate or other form of compensation for sending, referring or otherwise inducing a person to communicate with an osteopathic physician in his or her professional capacity or for any professional services not actually and personally rendered, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2.
- (d) Employing, directly or indirectly, any suspended or unlicensed person in the practice of osteopathic medicine [,] or in practice as a physician assistant, or the aiding or abetting of any unlicensed person to practice osteopathic medicine [.] or to practice as a physician assistant.
- (e) Advertising the practice of osteopathic medicine in a manner which does not conform to the guidelines established by regulations of the Board.
 - (f) Engaging in any:
- (1) Professional conduct which is intended to deceive or which the Board by regulation has determined is unethical; or
- (2) Medical practice harmful to the public or any conduct detrimental to the public health, safety or morals which does not constitute gross or repeated malpractice or professional incompetence.
- (g) Administering, dispensing or prescribing any controlled substance or any dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS, otherwise than in the course of legitimate professional practice or as authorized by law.





- (h) Habitual drunkenness or habitual addiction to the use of a controlled substance.
- (i) Performing, assisting in or advising an unlawful abortion or the injection of any liquid silicone substance into the human body, other than the use of silicone oil to repair a retinal detachment.
- (j) Willful disclosure of a communication privileged pursuant to a statute or court order.
- (k) Willful disobedience of the regulations of the State Board of Health, the State Board of Pharmacy or the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.
- (l) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any prohibition made in this chapter.
- (m) Failure of a licensee to maintain timely, legible, accurate and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient.
- (n) Making alterations to the medical records of a patient that the licensee knows to be false.
- (o) Making or filing a report which the licensee knows to be false.
- (p) Failure of a licensee to file a record or report as required by law, or willfully obstructing or inducing any person to obstruct such filing.
- (q) Failure of a licensee to make medical records of a patient available for inspection and copying as provided by NRS 629.061.
- (r) Providing false, misleading or deceptive information to the Board in connection with an investigation conducted by the Board.
 - 2. It is not unprofessional conduct:
- (a) For persons holding valid licenses to practice osteopathic medicine issued pursuant to this chapter to practice osteopathic medicine in partnership under a partnership agreement or in a corporation or an association authorized by law, or to pool, share, divide or apportion the fees and money received by them or by the partnership, corporation or association in accordance with the partnership agreement or the policies of the board of directors of the corporation or association;
- (b) For two or more persons holding valid licenses to practice osteopathic medicine issued pursuant to this chapter to receive adequate compensation for concurrently rendering professional care to a patient and dividing a fee if the patient has full knowledge of this division and if the division is made in proportion to the services performed and the responsibility assumed by each [;] person; or
- (c) For a person licensed to practice osteopathic medicine pursuant to the provisions of this chapter to form an association or





other business relationship with an optometrist pursuant to the provisions of NRS 636.373.

Sec. 7. NRS 633.221 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 633.221 [1.] The Board shall elect from its members a President, a Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall hold their respective offices at [its] *the* pleasure [.
- 2. The Board may fix and pay a salary to the Secretary-Treasurer.] of the Board.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 633.286 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.286 1. On or before February 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Board shall submit to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature a written report compiling:
- (a) Disciplinary action taken by the Board during the previous biennium against osteopathic physicians *and physician assistants* for malpractice or negligence;
- (b) Information reported to the Board during the previous biennium pursuant to NRS 633.526, 633.527, subsections 3 and 4 of NRS 633.533 and NRS 690B.250 and 690B.260; and
- (c) Information reported to the Board during the previous biennium pursuant to NRS 633.524, including, without limitation, the number and types of surgeries performed by each holder of a license to practice osteopathic medicine and the occurrence of sentinel events arising from such surgeries, if any.
- 2. The report must include only aggregate information for statistical purposes and exclude any identifying information related to a particular person.
 - **Sec. 9.** NRS 633.305 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 633.305 1. Every applicant for a license shall:
- (a) File an application with the Board in the manner prescribed by regulations of the Board;
- (b) Submit verified proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant meets any age, citizenship and educational requirements prescribed by this chapter; and
- (c) Pay in advance to the Board the application and initial license fee specified in [this chapter.] NRS 633.501.
 - 2. An application filed with the Board pursuant to subsection 1 must include all information required to complete the application.
 - 3. The Board may hold hearings and conduct investigations into any matter related to the application and, in addition to the proofs required by subsection 1, may take such further evidence and require such other documents or proof of qualifications as it deems proper.
- 4. The Board may reject an application if [it appears] the **Board has cause to believe** that any credential **or information**





submitted by the applicant is false [.], misleading, deceptive or fraudulent.

Sec. 10. NRS 633.351 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.351 [Any] An unsuccessful applicant may appeal to the district court to review the action of the Board, if the applicant files the appeal within [6 months from] 30 days after the date [of the rejection of] on which the order rejecting the application is issued by the Board. Upon appeal, the applicant has the burden of showing that the action of the Board is erroneous or unlawful.

Sec. 11. NRS 633.391 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.391 1. The Board may issue to a qualified person a temporary license to practice osteopathic medicine in [order to authorize a] this State which authorizes the person [who is qualified to practice osteopathic medicine in this State] to serve as a substitute for [:

(a) A] a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 630 of NRS [;] or

[(b) An] an osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to this chapter [-,

who is absent from his or her practice.

- 2. Each applicant for [such] a *temporary* license [shall] *issued pursuant to this section must* pay the temporary license fee specified in this chapter.
- 3. A temporary license to practice osteopathic medicine is valid for not more than 6 months after issuance and is not renewable. Upon the expiration of a temporary license, an osteopathic physician may apply for a new temporary license in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Sec. 12. NRS 633.481 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 633.481 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if a [licensee of the] person licensed to practice [of] osteopathic medicine fails to comply with the requirements of NRS 633.471 within [30] 10 days after the renewal date, the Board shall give [30] 15 days' notice of the failure to renew the license and of the revocation of the license by certified mail to the licensee at the licensee's last known address that is registered with the Board. If the license is not renewed [before the expiration of the 30 days'] within 15 days after receiving notice, the license is automatically revoked without any further notice or a hearing and the Board shall file a copy of the notice with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice or its successor agency.
- 2. A [licensee of the] person licensed to practice [of] osteopathic medicine who fails to meet the continuing education requirements for license renewal may apply to the Board for a waiver of the requirements. The Board may grant a waiver for that





year only if [it] the Board finds that the failure is due to [the licensee's] a disability, military service, [or] absence from the United States, or [to] circumstances beyond the control of the licensee which are deemed by the Board to excuse the failure.

- 3. A person whose license is revoked under this section may apply to the Board for restoration of the license upon:
- (a) Payment of all past due renewal fees and the late payment fee specified in [this chapter;] NRS 633.501;
- (b) Producing verified evidence satisfactory to the Board of completion of the total number of hours of continuing education required for the year preceding the renewal date and for each year succeeding the date of revocation;
- (c) Stating under oath in writing that he or she has not withheld information from the Board which if disclosed would **[furnish]** constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this chapter; and
- (d) Submitting [all] any other information that is required by the Board to [complete the restoration of] restore the license.
 - **Sec. 13.** NRS 633.491 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.491 1. A [licensee of the] person licensed to practice [of] osteopathic medicine who retires from [such] practice [need not] is not required annually to renew his or her license after filing with the Board an affidavit stating the date on which he or she retired from practice and [such] any other [facts] evidence that the Board may require to verify the retirement. [as the Board deems necessary.]
- 2. [A retired licensee of the] An osteopathic physician who retires from practice [of osteopathic medicine] and who desires to return to practice may apply to renew his or her license by paying all back annual license renewal fees from the date of retirement and submitting verified evidence satisfactory to the Board that the licensee has attended continuing education courses or programs approved by the Board which total:
- (a) Twenty-five hours if the licensee has been retired 1 year or less.
- (b) Fifty hours within 12 months of the date of the application if the licensee has been retired for more than 1 year.
- 3. A [licensee of the] person licensed to practice [of] osteopathic medicine who wishes to have a license placed on inactive status must provide the Board with an affidavit stating the date on which the licensee will cease the practice of osteopathic medicine in Nevada and any other [facts] evidence that the Board may require. The Board shall place the license of the licensee on inactive status upon receipt of:
 - (a) The affidavit required pursuant to this subsection; and





- 1 (b) Payment of the inactive license fee prescribed by 2 NRS 633.501.
 - 4. [A licensee of the practice of] An osteopathic [medicine] physician whose license has been placed on inactive status:
 - (a) [Need] Is not required to annually renew the license.
 - (b) Shall annually pay the inactive license fee prescribed by NRS 633.501.
 - (c) Shall not engage in the practice of osteopathic medicine in this State.
 - 5. [A licensee of the practice of] An osteopathic [medicine] physician whose license is on inactive status and who wishes to renew [the] his or her license to practice osteopathic medicine must:
 - (a) Provide to the Board verified evidence satisfactory to the Board of completion of the total number of hours of continuing medical education required for:
 - (1) The year preceding the date of the application for renewal of the license; [to practice osteopathic medicine;] and
 - (2) Each year [succeeding] after the date the license was placed on inactive status.
 - (b) Provide to the Board an affidavit stating that the applicant has not withheld from the Board any information which would **[provide]** constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter.
 - (c) Comply with all other requirements for renewal.
 - Sec. 14. NRS 633.501 is hereby amended to read as follows: 633.501 [The]

- 33[3.] (c) Temporary license fee50034[4.] (d) Special or authorized facility license fee20035[5.] (e) Special event license fee200





- 2. The Board may prorate the initial license fee for a new license issued pursuant to paragraph (a) or (i) of subsection 1 which expires less than 6 months after the date of issuance.
- 3. The cost of any special meeting called at the request of a licensee, an institution, an organization, a state agency or an applicant for licensure must be paid by the person or entity requesting the special meeting. Such a special meeting must not be called until the person or entity requesting the meeting has paid a cash deposit with the Board sufficient to defray all expenses of the meeting.
 - **Sec. 15.** NRS 633.511 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 12 633.511 The grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant 13 to this chapter are:
 - 1. Unprofessional conduct.
 - 2. Conviction of:

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- (a) A violation of any federal or state law regulating the possession, distribution or use of any controlled substance or any dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS;
- (b) A felony relating to the practice of osteopathic medicine [;] or practice as a physician assistant;
- (c) A violation of any of the provisions of NRS 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, inclusive;
 - (d) Murder, voluntary manslaughter or mayhem;
- (e) Any felony involving the use of a firearm or other deadly weapon;
- (f) Assault with intent to kill or to commit sexual assault or mayhem;
- (g) Sexual assault, statutory sexual seduction, incest, lewdness, indecent exposure or any other sexually related crime;
 - (h) Abuse or neglect of a child or contributory delinquency; or
 - (i) Any offense involving moral turpitude.
- 3. The suspension of [the] a license to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant by any other jurisdiction.
- 4. Malpractice or gross malpractice, which may be evidenced by a claim of malpractice settled against a [practitioner.] licensee.
 - 5. Professional incompetence.
 - 6. Failure to comply with the requirements of NRS 633.527.
- 7. Failure to comply with the requirements of subsection 3 of NRS 633.471.
 - 8. Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 633.694.
- 9. Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS 449.0151, at any time during which:
 - (a) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or





- 1 (b) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension or 2 revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.
 - → This subsection applies to an owner or other principal responsible for the operation of the facility.
 - 10. Failure to comply with the provisions of subsection 2 of NRS 633.322.
 - 11. Signing a blank prescription form.

- 12. Attempting, directly or indirectly, by intimidation, coercion or deception, to obtain or retain a patient or to discourage the use of a second opinion.
- 13. Terminating the medical care of a patient without adequate notice or without making other arrangements for the continued care of the patient.
- 14. In addition to the provisions of subsection 3 of NRS 633.524, making or filing a report which the licensee knows to be false, failing to file a record or report that is required by law or willfully obstructing or inducing another to obstruct the making or filing of such a record or report.
- 15. Failure to report any person the licensee knows, or has reason to know, is in violation of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations of the Board within 30 days after the date the licensee knows or has reason to know of the violation.
- 16. Failure by a licensee or applicant to report in writing, within 30 days, any criminal action taken or conviction obtained against the licensee or applicant, other than a minor traffic violation, in this State or any other state or by the Federal Government, a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or any local or federal jurisdiction of a foreign country.
- 17. Engaging in any act that is unsafe in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.
- 31 18. Failure to comply with the provisions of section 2 of this 32 act.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 633.526 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 633.526 1. The insurer of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* licensed under this chapter shall report to the Board:
 - (a) Any action for malpractice against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* not later than 45 days after the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* receives service of a summons and complaint for the action;
 - (b) Any claim for malpractice against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* that is submitted to arbitration or mediation not later than 45 days after the claim is submitted to arbitration or mediation; and





- (c) Any settlement, award, judgment or other disposition of any action or claim described in paragraph (a) or (b) not later than 45 days after the settlement, award, judgment or other disposition.
- 2. The Board shall report any failure to comply with subsection 1 by an insurer licensed in this State to the Division of Insurance of the Department of Business and Industry. If, after a hearing, the Division of Insurance determines that any such insurer failed to comply with the requirements of subsection 1, the Division may impose an administrative fine of not more than \$10,000 against the insurer for each such failure to report. If the administrative fine is not paid when due, the fine must be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the Division.
 - **Sec. 17.** NRS 633.527 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.527 1. An osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* shall report to the Board:
- (a) Any action for malpractice against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* not later than 45 days after the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* receives service of a summons and complaint for the action;
- (b) Any claim for malpractice against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* that is submitted to arbitration or mediation not later than 45 days after the claim is submitted to arbitration or mediation;
- (c) Any settlement, award, judgment or other disposition of any action or claim described in paragraph (a) or (b) not later than 45 days after the settlement, award, judgment or other disposition; and
- (d) Any sanctions imposed against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* that are reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank not later than 45 days after the sanctions are imposed.
- 2. If the Board finds that an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* has violated any provision of this section, the Board may impose a fine of not more than \$5,000 against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* for each violation, in addition to any other fines or penalties permitted by law.
- 3. All reports made by an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* pursuant to this section are public records.
 - **Sec. 18.** NRS 633.528 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.528 If the Board receives a report pursuant to the provisions of NRS 633.526, 633.527, 690B.250 or 690B.260 indicating that a judgment has been rendered or an award has been made against an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* regarding an action or claim for malpractice or that such an action or claim against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* has been resolved by settlement, the Board shall conduct an investigation to determine whether to fimpose disciplinary action





against] discipline the osteopathic physician or physician assistant regarding the action or claim, unless the Board has already commenced or completed such an investigation regarding the action or claim before it receives the report.

Sec. 19. NRS 633.529 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.529 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, if the Board receives a report pursuant to the provisions of NRS 633.526, 633.527, 690B.250 or 690B.260 indicating that a judgment has been rendered or an award has been made against an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* regarding an action or claim for malpractice, or that such an action or claim against the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* has been resolved by settlement, the Board may order [that] the osteopathic physician or physician assistant to undergo a mental or physical examination or [an] any other examination [testing] designated by the Board to test his or her competence to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant, as applicable. An examination conducted pursuant to this subsection must be conducted by osteopathic physicians for other examinations designated by the Board . [to assist the Board or any investigative committee of the Board in determining the fitness of the osteopathic physician to practice medicine.

- 2. For the purposes of this section:
- (a) [Every] An osteopathic physician or physician assistant who applies for a license or who holds a license under this chapter [shall be] is deemed to have given consent to submit to a mental or physical examination or an examination testing his or her competence to practice osteopathic medicine [when ordered to do so in writing] or to practice as a physician assistant, as applicable, pursuant to a written order by the Board.
- (b) The testimony or reports of the examining osteopathic physician are not privileged communications.

Sec. 20. NRS 633.531 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 633.531 1. The Board or any of its members, [any] or a medical review panel of a hospital or medical society, which becomes aware [that any one or combination of the] of any conduct by an osteopathic physician or physician assistant that may constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action [may exist as to a person practicing osteopathic medicine in this State] shall, and any other person who is so aware may, file a written complaint specifying the relevant facts with the Board.
- 2. The Board shall retain all complaints filed with the Board pursuant to this section for at least 10 years, including, without limitation, any complaints not acted upon.





Sec. 21. NRS 633.533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.533 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, any person may file with the Board a complaint against an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* on a form provided by the Board. The form may be submitted in writing or electronically. If a complaint is submitted anonymously, the Board may accept the complaint but may refuse to consider the complaint if the lack of the identity of the complainant makes processing the complaint impossible or unfair to the person who is the subject of the complaint.

- 2. Any licensee, medical school or medical facility that becomes aware that a person practicing osteopathic medicine *or practicing as a physician assistant* in this State has, is or is about to become engaged in conduct which constitutes grounds for initiating disciplinary action shall file a written complaint with the Board within 30 days after becoming aware of the conduct.
- Any hospital, clinic or other medical facility licensed in this State, or medical society, shall *file a written* report to with the Board of any change in [an osteopathic physician's] the privileges of an osteopathic physician to practice osteopathic medicine or a physician assistant to practice as a physician assistant while the osteopathic physician or physician assistant is under investigation, and the outcome of any disciplinary action taken by [that] the facility or society against the osteopathic physician or physician assistant concerning the care of a patient or the competency of the osteopathic physician or physician assistant, within 30 days after the change in privileges is made or disciplinary action is taken. The Board shall report any failure to comply with this subsection by a hospital, clinic or other medical facility licensed in this State to the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services. If, after a hearing, the Health Division determines that any such facility or society failed to comply with the requirements of this subsection, the *Health* Division may impose an administrative fine of not more than \$10,000 against the facility or society for each such failure to report. If the administrative fine is not paid when due, the fine must be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the *Health* Division.
- 4. The clerk of every court shall report to the Board any finding, judgment or other determination of the court that an osteopathic physician or physician assistant:
 - (a) Is [a person with mental illness;] mentally ill;
 - (b) Is [a person with mental incompetence;] mentally incompetent;
- (c) Has been convicted of a felony or any law governing controlled substances or dangerous drugs;



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- (d) Is guilty of abuse or fraud under any state or federal program providing medical assistance; or
 - (e) Is liable for damages for malpractice or negligence,
 - within 45 days after [such a] the finding, judgment or determination. Fis made.]
 - 5. On or before January 15 of each year, the clerk of every court shall submit to the Office of Court Administrator created pursuant to NRS 1.320 a written report compiling the information that the clerk reported during the previous year to the Board regarding osteopathic physicians *and physician assistants* pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 4.

Sec. 22. NRS 633.561 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 633.561 Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, if the Board or a member of the Board designated to review a complaint pursuant to NRS 633.541 has reason to believe that the conduct of an osteopathic physician or physician assistant has raised a reasonable question as to his or her competence to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant, as *applicable*, with reasonable skill and safety to patients, the Board or the member designated by the Board may require the osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* to submit to a mental or physical examination *conducted* by physicians designated by the Board. If the osteopathic physician or physician assistant participates in a diversion program, the diversion program may exchange with any authorized member of the staff of the Board any information concerning the recovery and participation of the osteopathic physician or physician assistant in the diversion program. As used in this subsection, "diversion program" means a program approved by the Board to correct an osteopathic physician's or physician assistant's alcohol or drug dependence or any other impairment.
 - 2. For the purposes of this section:
- (a) [Every] An osteopathic physician or physician assistant who is licensed under this chapter and who accepts the privilege of practicing osteopathic medicine or practicing as a physician assistant in this State [shall be] is deemed to have given consent to submit to a mental or physical examination [if directed to do so in writing] pursuant to a written order by the Board.
- (b) The testimony or examination reports of the examining physicians are not privileged communications.
- 3. Except in extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Board, the failure of [a] an osteopathic physician or physician assistant who is licensed under this chapter to submit to an examination [if directed as provided in] pursuant to this section constitutes an admission of the charges against the osteopathic physician [-] or physician assistant.



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Sec. 23. NRS 633.571 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.571 Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, if the Board has reason to believe that the conduct of any osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* has raised a reasonable question as to his or her competence to practice osteopathic medicine *or to practice as a physician assistant, as applicable,* with reasonable skill and safety to patients, the Board may [cause a medical competency examination of] require the osteopathic physician or physician assistant to submit to an examination for the purposes of determining his or her [fitness] competence to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant, as applicable, with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

Sec. 24. NRS 633.581 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.581 1. If an investigation by the Board [regarding] of an osteopathic physician or physician assistant reasonably determines that the health, safety or welfare of the public or any patient served by the osteopathic physician or physician assistant is at risk of imminent or continued harm, the Board may summarily suspend the license of the osteopathic physician [.] or physician assistant. The order of summary suspension may be issued by the Board, an investigative committee of the Board or the Executive Director of the Board after consultation with the President, Vice President or Secretary-Treasurer of the Board.

- 2. If the Board issues an order summarily suspending the license of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* pursuant to subsection 1, the Board shall hold a hearing regarding the matter not later than 45 days after the date on which the Board issues the order summarily suspending the license unless the Board and the licensee mutually agree to a longer period.
- 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, if the Board issues an order summarily suspending the license of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* pending [proceedings] a proceeding for disciplinary action and requires the *osteopathic* physician *or physician assistant* to submit to a mental or physical examination or a medical competency examination, the examination [shall] *must* be conducted and the results *must be* obtained not later than 60 days after the Board issues [its] the order.

Sec. 25. NRS 633.591 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.591 Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, if the Board issues an order summarily suspending the license of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* pending proceedings for disciplinary action, including, without limitation, a summary suspension pursuant to NRS 233B.127, the court shall not stay that order unless the Board fails to institute and determine such





proceedings as promptly as the requirements for investigation of the case reasonably allow.

Sec. 26. NRS 633.601 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.601 1. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the Board, through [its President or Secretary] an officer of the Board or the Attorney General, may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any unprofessional conduct of an osteopathic physician or physician assistant which is harmful to the public or to limit the [physician's] practice of the osteopathic physician or physician assistant or suspend his or her license to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant, as applicable, as provided in this section.

- 2. The court in a proper case may issue a temporary restraining order or a preliminary injunction for such purposes:
- (a) Without proof of actual damage sustained by any person, this provision being a preventive as well as punitive measure; and
- (b) Pending proceedings for disciplinary action by the Board. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, such proceedings shall be instituted and determined as promptly as the requirements for investigation of the case reasonably allow.
- **Sec. 27.** NRS 633.631 is hereby amended to read as follows: 633.631 Except as otherwise provided in chapter 622A of NRS:
- 1. Service of process made under this chapter [shall] must be either personal or by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, addressed to the osteopathic physician or physician assistant at his or her last known address, as indicated [on] in the records of the Board. [, if possible.] If personal service cannot be made and if mail notice is returned undelivered, the Secretary of the Board shall cause a notice of hearing to be published once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in the county of the [physician's] last known address of the osteopathic physician or physician assistant or, if no newspaper is published in that county, [then] in a newspaper widely distributed in that county.
- 2. Proof of service of process or publication of notice made under this chapter [shall] *must* be filed with the Secretary of the Board and [shall] *must* be recorded in the minutes of the Board.
 - **Sec. 28.** NRS 633.641 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.641 Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, in any disciplinary proceeding before the Board, a hearing officer or a panel:
- 1. Proof of actual injury need not be established where the formal complaint charges deceptive or unethical professional conduct or medical practice harmful to the public.





- 2. A certified copy of the record of a court or a licensing agency showing a conviction or the suspension or revocation of a license to practice osteopathic medicine *or to practice as a physician assistant* is conclusive evidence of its occurrence.
 - **Sec. 29.** NRS 633.651 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.651 1. If the Board finds a person guilty in a disciplinary proceeding, it shall by order take one or more of the following actions:
- (a) Place the person on probation for a specified period or until further order of the Board.
 - (b) Administer to the person a public reprimand.
- (c) Limit the practice of the person to, or by the exclusion of, one or more specified branches of osteopathic medicine.
- (d) Suspend the license of the person to practice osteopathic medicine *or to practice as a physician assistant* for a specified period or until further order of the Board.
- (e) Revoke the license of the person to practice osteopathic medicine [...] or to practice as a physician assistant.
 - (f) Impose a fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation.
 - (g) Require supervision of the practice of the person.
- (h) Require the person to perform community service without compensation.
- (i) Require the person to complete any training or educational requirements specified by the Board.
- (j) Require the person to participate in a program to correct alcohol or drug dependence or any other impairment.
- The order of the Board may contain any other terms, provisions or conditions as the Board deems proper and which are not inconsistent with law.
 - 2. The Board shall not administer a private reprimand.
- 3. An order that imposes discipline and the findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting that order are public records.
 - **Sec. 30.** NRS 633.671 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 633.671 1. Any person who has been placed on probation or whose license has been limited, suspended or revoked by the Board is entitled to judicial review of the Board's order as provided by law.
 - 2. Every order of the Board which limits the practice of **osteopathic** medicine **or the practice of a physician assistant** or suspends or revokes a license is effective from the date [the Secretary certifies] **on which** the order **is issued by the Board** until the date the order is modified or reversed by a final judgment of the court.





3. The district court shall give a petition for judicial review of the Board's order priority over other civil matters which are not expressly given priority by law.

Sec. 31. NRS 633.681 is hereby amended to read as follows:

633.681 1. Any person:

- (a) Whose practice of osteopathic medicine *or practice as a physician assistant* has been limited; or
- (b) Whose license to practice osteopathic medicine *or to practice as a physician assistant* has been:
 - (1) Suspended until further order; or
 - (2) Revoked,

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- may apply to the Board after a reasonable period for removal of the limitation or suspension or may apply to the Board pursuant to the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS for reinstatement of the revoked license.
 - 2. In hearing the application, the Board:
- (a) May require the person to submit to a mental or physical examination by physicians whom it designates and submit such other evidence of changed conditions and of fitness as it deems proper;
- (b) Shall determine whether under all the circumstances the time of the application is reasonable; and
- (c) May deny the application or modify or rescind its order as it deems the evidence and the public safety warrants.
 - **Sec. 32.** NRS 633.691 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.691 1. In addition to any other immunity provided by the provisions of chapter 622A of NRS, the Board, a medical review panel of a hospital, a hearing officer, a panel of the Board, an employee or volunteer of a diversion program specified in NRS 633.561, or any person who or other organization which initiates or assists in any lawful investigation or proceeding concerning the discipline of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* for gross malpractice, malpractice, professional incompetence or unprofessional conduct is immune from any civil action for such initiation or assistance or any consequential damages, if the person or organization acted in good faith.
- 2. The Board shall not commence an investigation, impose any disciplinary action or take any other adverse action against an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* for:
- (a) Disclosing to a governmental entity a violation of a law, rule or regulation by an applicant for a license to practice osteopathic medicine or to practice as a physician assistant, or by an osteopathic physician [;] or physician assistant; or





- (b) Cooperating with a governmental entity that is conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into such a violation, including, without limitation, providing testimony concerning the violation.
- 3. As used in this section, "governmental entity" includes, without limitation:
- (a) A federal, state or local officer, employee, agency, department, division, bureau, board, commission, council, authority or other subdivision or entity of a public employer;
- (b) A federal, state or local employee, committee, member or commission of the Legislative Branch of Government;
- (c) A federal, state or local representative, member or employee of a legislative body or a county, town, village or any other political subdivision or civil division of the State;
- (d) A federal, state or local law enforcement agency or prosecutorial office, or any member or employee thereof, or police or peace officer; and
- (e) A federal, state or local judiciary, or any member or employee thereof, or grand or petit jury.
 - **Sec. 33.** NRS 633.701 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.701 The filing and review of a complaint and any subsequent disposition by the Board, the member designated by the Board to review a complaint pursuant to NRS 633.541 or any reviewing court do not preclude:
- 1. Any measure by a hospital or other institution to limit or terminate the privileges of an osteopathic physician *or physician assistant* according to its rules or the custom of the profession. No civil liability attaches to any such action taken without malice even if the ultimate disposition of the complaint is in favor of the *osteopathic* physician ... or physician assistant.
- 2. Any appropriate criminal prosecution by the Attorney General or a district attorney based upon the same or other facts.
 - **Sec. 34.** NRS 633.711 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.711 1. The Board, through [its President or Secretary] an officer of the Board or the Attorney General, may maintain in any court of competent jurisdiction a suit for an injunction against any person [practicing]:
- (a) Practicing osteopathic medicine or practicing as a physician assistant without a valid license to practice osteopathic medicine [valid under this chapter.] or to practice as a physician assistant; or
- (b) Engaging in telemedicine without a valid license pursuant to section 2 of this act.
 - 2. [Such an] An injunction [:] issued pursuant to subsection 1:





- (a) May be issued without proof of actual damage sustained by any person, this provision being a preventive as well as a punitive measure.
- (b) [Shall] Must not relieve such person from criminal prosecution for practicing without such a license.
 - **Sec. 35.** NRS 633.721 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 633.721 In a criminal complaint charging any person with practicing osteopathic medicine or practicing as a physician assistant without a valid license [to practice osteopathic medicine,] issued by the Board, it is sufficient to charge that the person did, upon a certain day, and in a certain county of this State, engage in [the] such practice [of osteopathic medicine] without having a valid license to do so, without averring any further or more particular facts concerning the violation.

Sec. 36. NRS 633.741 is hereby amended to read as follows: 633.741 A person who:

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 629.091, practices [osteopathic]:
 - (a) Osteopathic medicine :

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- (a) Without a valid license to practice osteopathic medicine [valid] under this chapter; [or]
 - (b) As a physician assistant without a valid license under this chapter; or
 - (c) Beyond the limitations ordered upon his or her practice by the Board or the court;
- 2. Presents as his or her own the diploma, license or credentials of another;
- 3. Gives either false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or any of its members in connection with an application for a license:
- 4. Files for record the license issued to another, falsely claiming himself or herself to be the person named in the license, or falsely claiming himself or herself to be the person entitled to the license;
- 5. Practices osteopathic medicine *or practices as a physician assistant* under a false or assumed name or falsely personates another licensee of a like or different name;
- 6. Holds himself or herself out as a physician assistant or who uses any other term indicating or implying that he or she is a physician assistant, unless the person has been licensed by the Board as provided in this chapter; or
- 7. Supervises a person as a physician assistant before such person is licensed as provided in this chapter,
- is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.





- **Sec. 37.** Section 121 of chapter 413, Statutes of Nevada 2007, as amended by chapter 369, Statutes of Nevada 2009, at page 1856, and chapter 494, Statutes of Nevada 2009, at page 2999, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 121. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.
 - 2. Sections 1 to 42.3, inclusive, and 43 to 120, inclusive, of this act become effective:
 - (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
 - (b) On January 1, 2008, for all other purposes.
 - 3. [Sections] Section 11 [and 25] of this act [expire] expires by limitation on January 1, 2012.
 - 4. Section 42.3 of this act expires by limitation on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
 - (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
 - (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children,
 - → are repealed by the Congress of the United States.
 - 5. Section 42.7 of this act becomes effective on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
 - (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
 - (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children,
 - → are repealed by the Congress of the United States.
 - 6. Sections 42.7 and 55.5 of this act expire by limitation on the date 2 years after the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or





to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:

(a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or

(b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children,

→ are repealed by the Congress of the United States.





