

Sixty-fourth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1099**

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor Committee

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

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 43-06-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to ~~public safety emergency~~ temporary suspension and appeal of chiropractors; and to  
3 amend and reenact subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 43-06-01, section 43-06-02,  
4 subsections 2 and 5 of section 43-06-04.1, sections 43-06-05, 43-06-08, 43-06-09, 43-06-10.1,  
5 43-06-13, and 43-06-14.1, subdivision g of subsection 1 of section 43-06-15, and subsections 4  
6 and 5 of section 43-06-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the practice of  
7 chiropractic.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 43-06-01 of the North  
10 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 a. The examination, evaluation, and diagnosis by means including x-ray, other  
12 appropriate diagnostic imaging, clinical laboratory procedures, or pertinent  
13 examinations taught by chiropractic colleges accredited by the council on  
14 chiropractic education or its successor or equivalent;

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **43-06-02. Who exempt from the provisions of this chapter.**

18 This chapter does not apply to:

- 19 1. Chiropractors from the District of Columbia, or other states, territories, or countries  
20 who are in actual consultation in this state.
- 21 2. Students duly enrolled in a college of chiropractic approved and accredited by the  
22 council on chiropractic education, or its successor or equivalent, who have completed  
23 chiropractic studies and who are continuing their training under a preceptorship  
24 program and performing the duties of an intern under the supervision of a chiropractor

1 licensed in the state of North Dakota who has received approval to supervise such  
2 internship by the board and said students having received approval to participate in  
3 such internship by the board and by the chiropractic college or university.

4 3. A graduate of any approved and accredited college of chiropractic who has for the first  
5 time made application for license by examination to practice chiropractic in the state of  
6 North Dakota, and who, under the supervision of a North Dakota licensed chiropractor,  
7 performs the duties of an intern, provided that a supervising chiropractor has certified  
8 to the board that the graduate is of good character and competent chiropractic ability.  
9 The authorization granted by the board terminates within fifteen months from the date  
10 issued by the board.

11 4. Nothing in this chapter is to be construed to impinge upon the practice of medicine by  
12 a physician and surgeon or an osteopathic physician and surgeon who has adequate  
13 training in the use of manipulative and adjustive procedures of the spine and  
14 appendicular skeleton.

15 5. A chiropractor who is licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States or  
16 credentialed to practice chiropractic in another country if that chiropractor is teaching,  
17 demonstrating, or providing chiropractic in connection with teaching or participating in  
18 an educational seminar in the state for no more than sixty days in a calendar year.

19 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 2 and 5 of section 43-06-04.1 of the North Dakota  
20 Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

21 2. The board shall ~~pass upon~~verify the qualifications of applicants for licenses to practice  
22 chiropractic. It shall examine and renew the licenses of duly qualified applicants.

23 5. The board may inspect upon ~~complaint or~~ probable cause, at all reasonable times, any  
24 chiropractic office or place where chiropractic services are performed.

25 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **43-06-05. Meetings of board - When held - Place of meeting - Quorum - Officers - Seal**  
28 **- Compensation - Expenses - How paid.**

29 The board shall hold regular meetings ~~for the examination of applicants~~ twice yearly at  
30 approximate six-month intervals and such special meetings as it may deem necessary. The  
31 meetings shall be held at such places as the board may designate. Three members of the board

1 constitute a quorum. At the first meeting of the board of each calendar year, the members of the  
2 board shall elect from their membership a president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer.  
3 Each shall hold office for one year and until a successor is elected and qualified. The board  
4 shall have a seal and may adopt appropriate rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
5 chapter. A member of the board shall receive compensation in an amount to be fixed by  
6 regulation of the board for each day or portion thereof spent in the discharge of duties, such  
7 mileage as is provided by section 54-06-09, and must be reimbursed for actual and necessary  
8 expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties in accordance with section 44-08-04. In  
9 addition to the compensation, expenses, and mileage, the secretary-treasurer of the board  
10 ~~shall~~is entitled to receive such salary as must be fixed by a resolution of the board adopted at a  
11 regular meeting.

12 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **43-06-08. License required - Application - Examination required - Fee.**

15 No person may practice chiropractic in this state unless that person has a license from the  
16 state board of chiropractic examiners. Any person who desires a license shall apply to the board  
17 and submit to an examination. Each applicant shall present with the application a diploma from  
18 a college of chiropractic accredited by the council on chiropractic education or its successor or  
19 equivalent, or a photocopy of the same, or a certificate from the college stating that the  
20 applicant is a student in good standing in the student's last trimester, and proof that the  
21 applicant has the required qualifications. The board may allow an applicant to take the  
22 examination during the period that the applicant is attending the applicant's last trimester but  
23 may not issue a license until the applicant has graduated and has provided the board with a  
24 diploma as provided in this section. Before beginning the examination, the applicant shall pay to  
25 ~~the secretary-treasurer of the board~~ a fee, to be determined by the board from time to time, of  
26 an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars. ~~The examination must be held twice yearly at~~  
27 ~~intervals of approximately six months with date and place to be determined by the board.~~

28 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **43-06-09. Chiropractor - Qualifications.**

2       An applicant for examination to practice chiropractic in this state shall have a degree or a  
3       certificate proving enrollment in the last trimester of college received from an approved and  
4       accredited college of chiropractic. An approved and accredited college of chiropractic within the  
5       meaning of this chapter is a college of chiropractic that is approved by the board and accredited  
6       by the council on chiropractic education or its successor or equivalent.

7       **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-10.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8       amended and reenacted as follows:

9       **43-06-10.1. National board examination.**

10      The board may in its discretion accept all parts of the national board examination in lieu of  
11      part of an examination for a license, providing all other requirements are met ~~but shall require~~  
12      ~~examination in chiropractic jurisprudence and practical examinations.~~

13      **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14      amended and reenacted as follows:

15      **43-06-13. Term of license - Renewal - Fee - Requirements.**

16      A license to practice chiropractic in this state is valid for one year only and must be renewed  
17      on or before the first day of September of each year. The fee for renewal of a license must be  
18      determined by the board but may not exceed five hundred dollars. The board shall establish by  
19      rule the number of hours necessary for annual continuing education. Before it issues a renewal  
20      license, the board shall require each applicant who has a license to practice in this state to  
21      attend a postgraduate course sponsored by a college of chiropractic, accredited by the council  
22      on chiropractic education, or its successor or equivalent, a health-related seminar sponsored by  
23      an equally accredited college or university, a medical seminar qualifying for continuing  
24      education credits, or ~~at least a two-day~~ an educational program arranged by the North Dakota  
25      chiropractic association and approved by the board. A license which has not been renewed, as  
26      a result of nonpayment of annual registration fees required by this chapter or as a result of the  
27      failure by the licensee to attend the required annual continuing education, may be reinstated  
28      upon payment to the board of the amount of renewal fees then in default or by certification that  
29      the required continuing education has been completed ~~within sixty days~~ after the expiration of  
30      the previous license. In either case, the board may charge an additional administrative fee to be  
31      fixed by the board not to exceed four hundred dollars. In addition to the payment of fees, the

1 board, after an investigation, may require a chiropractor whose license has not been renewed to  
2 submit to a reexamination as to the applicant's qualifications to practice chiropractic before the  
3 applicant is reinstated, if the board in the exercise of its discretion finds and determines that the  
4 best interests of the public and the applicant will be served thereby.

5 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-14.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **43-06-14.1. Peer review of services and fees.**

- 8 1. The board, upon receipt of an inquiry from a patient, a third-party payer, including any  
9 governmental agency, or a chiropractor as to whether a chiropractor licensed in this  
10 state properly utilized services and rendered or ordered appropriate treatment or  
11 services and whether the cost of the treatment was unconscionable for a particular  
12 patient, complaint, may appoint a peer review committee for the purpose of  
13 investigation of the matter and rendering an opinion thereon.
- 14 2. The peer review committee must be appointed by the board and function as its agent  
15 and may consist of different individuals for review of different cases.
- 16 3. The peer review committee shall investigate each inquiry submitted by the board. It  
17 shall examine such witnesses, review such patient and business records, and  
18 otherwise take whatever action is necessary to best ascertain the facts. It shall  
19 transmit all information it possesses to the board and shall report its findings to the  
20 board. The board shall furnish copies of the findings to the patient, party making the  
21 complaint and to the chiropractor, and third-party payer. The finding of the peer review  
22 committee on each inquiry must include a determination of whether the chiropractor  
23 properly utilized services and rendered or ordered appropriate treatment or services  
24 and whether the cost of the treatment was unconscionable.
- 25 4. The determinations of the peer review committee must be presumed valid and may be  
26 considered as prima facie evidence in any further proceedings by the board.
- 27 5. The acceptance of, or the request provision of, payment for treatment rendered to a  
28 patient by a chiropractor constitutes the consent of the chiropractor to the submission  
29 of all necessary records and other information concerning the treatment to the board  
30 or peer review committee.

1       6. The board may adopt rules it considers necessary and appropriate to implement the  
2       peer review system and activities established under this chapter.

3       7. All data and information, including patient records acquired by the board or the peer  
4       review committee, in the exercise of its duties and functions, are confidential and  
5       closed to the public. All board and peer review committee meetings wherein patient  
6       testimony or records are taken or reviewed are confidential and closed to the public.

7       8. ~~Any third-party payer~~Except a patient, any party, including any governmental agency,  
8       making a request under this section may be charged a fee by the board equal to the  
9       administration costs of performing the review.

10       **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision g of subsection 1 of section 43-06-15 of the North  
11       Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12           g. Has been aided, assisted, or enabled any unlicensed person to practice  
13           chiropractic contrary to this chapter or rule of the board.

14       **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 4 and 5 of section 43-06-15 of the North Dakota  
15       Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

16       4. A doctor of chiropractic who is the subject of an investigation by, or on behalf of, the  
17       board shall cooperate fully with the investigation. Cooperation includes responding  
18       fully and promptly to any question raised by, or on behalf of, the board relating to the  
19       subject of the investigation and providing copies of patient health records, ~~as~~  
20       ~~reasonably~~ or any pertinent information requested by the board, to assist the board in  
21       its investigation.

22       5. Any person, including a member of the board, may file a ~~sworn~~signed written  
23       statement and other reports and information with any member of the board against a  
24       licensed chiropractor charging the chiropractor with any of the offenses or conditions  
25       set forth in subsection 1, which statement must set forth a specification of the charges.  
26       When the statement has been filed, the board shall make an investigation as provided  
27       by subsection 6.

28       **SECTION 12.** Section 43-06-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted  
29       as follows:

**43-06-17.1. Public safety emergencyTemporary suspension - Appeal.**

- ~~1. Without a hearing, the board may immediately suspend a chiropractic license for not more than sixty days if the board determines continued practice by the chiropractor would create an imminent risk of harm to the public.~~ If based on verified evidence the board determines by a clear and convincing standard that the evidence presented to the board indicates that the continued practice by the chiropractor would create significant risk of serious and ongoing harm to the public while a disciplinary proceeding is pending, and that immediate suspension of the chiropractor's license is required to reasonably protect the public from the risk of harm, the board may order a temporary suspension ex parte. For purposes of this section, "verified evidence" means testimony taken under oath and based on personal knowledge. The board shall give prompt written notice of the suspension of the chiropractor, which must include a copy of the order and complaint, the date set for a full hearing, and, upon request, a specific description of the nature of the evidence, including a list of all known witnesses and a specific description of any documents relied upon by the board in ordering the temporary suspension must be made available to the chiropractor.
- ~~2. A summary suspension takes effect upon written notice to the chiropractor specifying the applicable law or regulation the board has reason to believe was violated and identifying the potential harm that may ensue. At the time of summary suspension, the board shall schedule a disciplinary hearing to occur within twenty-one days. The form of notice must be in accordance with the requirements and administrative procedures set forth under chapter 28-32.~~ An ex parte suspension remains in effect until a final order is issued after a full hearing or appeal under this section or until the suspension is otherwise terminated by the board.
3. The board shall conduct a hearing on the merits of the allegations to determine what disciplinary action, if any, will be taken against the chiropractor who is the subject of the ex parte suspension. That hearing must be held not later than thirty days from the issuance of the ex parte temporary suspension order. The chiropractor is entitled to a continuance of the thirty-day period upon request for a period determined by the hearing officer.

- 1     4. The chiropractor may appeal the ex parte temporary suspension order before the full  
2     hearing. For purposes of appeal, the district court shall decide whether the board  
3     acted reasonably or arbitrarily. The court shall give priority to the appeal for prompt  
4     disposition.
- 5     5. Any medical record of a patient, or other document containing personal information  
6     about a patient, which is obtained by the board is an exempt record as defined in  
7     section 44-04-17.1.