

Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1087**

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 43-06-16.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to certified chiropractic clinical assistants; to amend and reenact subdivision hh of  
3 subsection 2 of section 12-60-24 and sections 43-06-01, 43-06-04.1, 43-06-07, 43-06-09.1,  
4 43-06-11.1, 43-06-15, and 43-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to chiropractic;  
5 and to provide a penalty.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision hh of subsection 2 of section 12-60-24 of the North  
8 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 hh. The state board of chiropractic examiners for applicants, licensees, certificants,  
10 or investigations under chapter 43-06, except that criminal history record checks  
11 need not be made unless required by the board.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **43-06-01. Definitions.**

15 In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- 16 1. "Board" means the state board of chiropractic examiners.
- 17 2. "Certified chiropractic clinical assistant" means an individual certified by the board who  
18 assists with basic health care duties in the practice of chiropractic under the  
19 supervision of a licensed doctor of chiropractic in good standing with the board.
- 20 3. a. "The practice of chiropractic" includes:
- 21 a. (1) The examination, evaluation, and diagnosis by means including x-ray, other  
22 appropriate diagnostic imaging, clinical laboratory procedures, or pertinent  
23 examinations taught by chiropractic colleges accredited by the council on  
24 chiropractic education or its successor or equivalent;



- 1       4. The board may appoint a peer review committee and employ such personnel and
- 2       incur such expenses as may be necessary for the performance of the board's duties
- 3       and the enforcement of this chapter.
- 4       5. The board may inspect upon probable cause, at all reasonable times, any chiropractic
- 5       office or place where chiropractic services are performed.
- 6       6. The board may adopt and amend administrative rules, consistent with the provisions
- 7       of this chapter governing the practice of chiropractic and the diagnosis and treatment
- 8       of patients, the enforcement of this chapter, and proper performance of its duties,
- 9       including:
  - 10      a. A code of ethical conduct governing the practice of chiropractic.
  - 11      b. Requirements, standards, and examinations to determine the intellectual,
  - 12      educational, scientific, technical, and professional qualifications of applicants for
  - 13      license or certification.
  - 14      c. Matters pertaining to the content and conduct of examination.
  - 15      d. Matters pertaining to the operation and registration of chiropractic facilities.
  - 16      e. Matters pertaining to the practice and certification of chiropractic specialties by
  - 17      licensed doctors of chiropractic.
  - 18      f. The quantity, type, and character of postgraduate study to be done by any
  - 19      licensee in order to comply with the provisions of this chapter.
  - 20      g. Set policies and procedures on what constitutes professional or unprofessional
  - 21      conduct.

22       **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24       **43-06-07. Records of the board.**

- 25       1. The board shall keep a record of all its proceedings and a register of applications for
- 26       licenses to practice chiropractic showing:
  - 27      ~~1.~~ a. The name and location of the institution from which each applicant received the
  - 28      applicant's degree of doctor of chiropractic.
  - 29      ~~2.~~ b. The date when the degree of doctor of chiropractic was granted.
  - 30      ~~3.~~ c. Whether the applicant was licensed or rejected.

2. The board shall maintain a register of certified chiropractic clinical assistants. TheA  
register is prima facie evidence of all matters recorded in ~~it~~the register.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-09.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-06-09.1. Conviction not bar to licensure or certification - Exceptions.**

Conviction of an offense does not disqualify a person from licensure or certification under  
this chapter unless the board determines that the offense has a direct bearing upon a person's  
ability to serve the public as a chiropractor or certified chiropractic clinical assistant, or that,  
following conviction of any offense, the person is not sufficiently rehabilitated under section  
12.1-33-02.1.

**SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-06-11.1. Criminal history record checks.**

The board may require any applicant ~~or, licensee, or certificate holder~~ under this chapter to  
submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history record check. The nationwide criminal  
history record check must be conducted in the manner provided by section 12-60-24. All costs  
associated with obtaining a criminal history record check are the responsibility of the applicant  
~~or, licensee, or certificate holder~~.

**SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-06-15. Grounds for revocation or suspension of license or other action of the  
board - Sworn statement - Investigation - Hearing.**

1. The board may revoke, suspend, or take such other action as provided in this section  
regarding the license of any chiropractor in this state who:
  - a. Has a mental or physical condition such that the person is unable to safely  
engage in the practice of chiropractic.
  - b. Has been declared incompetent or seriously mentally ill by a court of competent  
jurisdiction and thereafter has not been declared competent or released from  
supervision.
  - c. Is suffering from alcoholism or drug addiction which endangers the public by  
impairing the chiropractor's ability to practice safely.

- 1 d. Procured the license to practice by fraud or mistake.
- 2 e. Has engaged in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, including false or
- 3 misleading advertising, rendering excessive or inappropriate treatment, or
- 4 charging unconscionable fees.
- 5 f. Has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, illegal possession or
- 6 distribution of drugs, or any crime that would affect the person's ability to practice
- 7 as a licensed chiropractor. A copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty or
- 8 nolo contendere is conclusive evidence.
- 9 g. Has aided, assisted, or enabled any unlicensed person to practice chiropractic
- 10 contrary to this chapter or rule of the board.
- 11 h. Has engaged in the practice of abortion.
- 12 i. Has made use of any advertising statement of a character tending to deceive or
- 13 mislead the public.
- 14 j. Has failed to maintain a chiropractic facility in safe and sanitary conditions.
- 15 k. Has incurred a suspension or revocation in another jurisdiction as a result of acts
- 16 similar to acts described in this section or rule of the board. A certified copy of the
- 17 suspension or revocation in the other jurisdiction is conclusive evidence.
- 18 l. Has committed any violation of the provisions of this chapter and the code of
- 19 ethics or rules as adopted by the board, including the failure to submit for
- 20 physical or mental examination or to provide information as required by the
- 21 board.
- 22 m. Has practiced chiropractic while the license to practice was suspended or
- 23 revoked.
- 24 n. Has, while under probation, violated its terms.
- 25 o. Has failed to properly supervise a certified chiropractic clinical assistant or who
- 26 has delegated duties to a certified chiropractic clinical assistant which are beyond
- 27 the assistant's education or training or which are beyond the scope of practice of
- 28 a certified chiropractic clinical assistant.
- 29 2. Any person, health care facility, business, or organization is immune from civil liability
- 30 or criminal prosecution for submitting a sworn statement and other reports and

information to the board under subsection 5 or for otherwise reporting to the board violations or alleged violations under this chapter. The reports are not public records.

3. Members of the board and persons employed by the board or engaged in the investigation or prosecution of violations and in the preparation and management of charges of violations of this chapter on behalf of the board, including members of any peer review committee, are immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution for any actions, transactions, or publications in the execution of, or relating to, their duties under this chapter.
4. A doctor of chiropractic who is the subject of an investigation by, or on behalf of, the board shall cooperate fully with the investigation. Cooperation includes responding fully and promptly to any question raised by, or on behalf of, the board relating to the subject of the investigation and providing copies of patient records or any pertinent information requested by the board, to assist the board in its investigation.
5. Any person, including a member of the board, may file a signed written statement and other reports and information with any member of the board against a licensed chiropractor charging the chiropractor with any of the offenses or conditions set forth in subsection 1, which statement must set forth a specification of the charges. When the statement has been filed, the board shall make an investigation as provided by subsection 6.
6. When the statement and other reports and information have been filed, the board shall notify the licensed chiropractor of the allegations and shall thereafter make an investigation for the purpose of determining whether the allegations in the statement constitute a basis for further proceedings. The investigation must be conducted in such manner and at such time and place as in the judgment of the board will best ascertain the facts. The board may appoint a peer review committee. The board, in order to pursue the investigation, has the power to subpoena and examine witnesses and records, including patient records, and to copy, photograph, or take samples. It may require the licensed chiropractor to give statements under oath, to submit to a physical or mental examination, or both, by a physician or physicians and other qualified evaluation professionals selected by the board if it appears to be in the best interests of the public that this evaluation be secured. The board may examine and

1 review any relevant medical or psychological records, including test results and x-rays  
2 relative to the examination or treatment of the licensed chiropractor. A written request  
3 from the board constitutes authorization to release information. The medical or  
4 psychological information is not public record.

5 7. If, based on the investigation or report from a peer review committee, the board has  
6 reasonable cause to believe that there is a basis for further proceedings, the board  
7 shall prepare a complaint and serve it, along with a notice of hearing, on the licensed  
8 chiropractor and thereafter proceed with a hearing on the matter under chapter 28-32.  
9 All hearings must be held in Bismarck at the state capitol unless the board and the  
10 licensed chiropractor agree otherwise.

11 8. After the hearing, the board, under section 28-32-39, shall make and give notice of its  
12 determination or decision as to whether the offenses charged have been committed or  
13 the conditions charged do not exist. If the finding is in the negative, the board shall  
14 dismiss the charges. If the finding is in the affirmative, the board shall:

- 15 a. Revoke the license;
- 16 b. Suspend the licensee's right to practice for a period not to exceed one year;
- 17 c. Suspend its judgment of revocation on terms and conditions determined by the  
18 board;
- 19 d. Place the licensee on probation; or
- 20 e. Take any other disciplinary action which the board in its discretion considers  
21 proper, including the ordering of an adjustment to a patient's bill or refund of such  
22 amount previously paid, including reasonable interest from the date of the order,  
23 to a patient or payer of any unconscionable fees for chiropractic services.
- 24 f. In addition to the actions imposed in subdivisions a through e, the board may:
- 25 (1) Require payment of all costs of proceedings resulting in a disciplinary  
26 action.
- 27 (2) Impose a civil penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars for each separate  
28 violation, to deprive the chiropractor of any economic advantage gained by  
29 reason of the violation found and to reimburse the board for the cost of the  
30 investigation and proceedings.

- 1       9.   In cases of revocation, suspension, or probation, the board shall record the facts of the
- 2       case and all actions of the board.
- 3       10.   On the expiration of a term of suspension, the licensee must be reinstated by the
- 4       board if the chiropractor applies to the board and furnishes evidence, satisfactory to
- 5       the board, that the licensee is then of good character and conduct or restored to good
- 6       health and that the licensee has not practiced chiropractic during the term of
- 7       suspension and is competent to practice in this state. If the evidence fails to establish
- 8       those facts to the satisfaction of the board, the board may require the applicant to
- 9       submit to an examination in accordance with sections 43-06-08 through 43-06-12 or
- 10      shall proceed to hearing on revocation with notice as provided in subsection 7.
- 11      11.   Any licensed chiropractor may take corrective action or voluntarily relinquish the
- 12      chiropractor's license to the board before a formal order of the board on such terms
- 13      and conditions as may be agreed by the licensed chiropractor and the board.

14      **SECTION 8.** Section 43-06-16.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted  
15 as follows:

16      **43-06-16.1. Certified chiropractic clinical assistant.**

- 17      1.   A person may not practice as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant or claim to be a
- 18      chiropractic assistant without certification from the board. The fee for initial certification
- 19      is fifty dollars unless a different amount is provided by administrative rule. The board
- 20      may grant a temporary certification to an initial applicant who is waiting for a criminal
- 21      history background check to be completed. This temporary certification expires
- 22      automatically upon the applicant receiving a regular certification or being notified the
- 23      application has been denied.
- 24      2.   To be certified to practice as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant, an applicant
- 25      must provide evidence satisfactory to the board the applicant:
  - 26      a.   Graduated from high school, or holds a graduate equivalency degree.
  - 27      b.   Is at least eighteen years of age.
  - 28      c.   Successfully completed the certified chiropractic clinical assistant program and
  - 29      examination by the federation of chiropractic licensing boards. However,
  - 30      applicants for initial certification before March 1, 2018, and who have verified
  - 31      employment of two thousand hours as a chiropractic assistant within the three



1           years before August 1, 2017, and submitted evidence of passing the certified  
2           chiropractic clinical assistant examination by the national board of chiropractic  
3           examiners via the federation of chiropractic licensing boards, qualify for  
4           certification without meeting the coursework requirement of the program.

5           d. Is of good moral character and submits documentation of good moral character  
6           as prescribed by the board, including criminal records review.

7           e. Completed an application in a manner and form provided by the board.

8           f. Paid all applicable fees relative to the application process as determined by the  
9           board.

10          g. Received practical experience to the extent required to demonstrate competency  
11          to safely provide patient care pertinent to the chiropractic office at which the  
12          certified chiropractic clinical assistant is employed.

13          3. A certified chiropractic clinical assistant who is certified in another jurisdiction may  
14          apply for certification. The applicant shall provide evidence satisfactory to the board  
15          the applicant:

16          a. Has current practice privilege in good standing as a certified chiropractic clinical  
17          assistant or equivalent granted by at least one jurisdiction with requirements  
18          similar to or greater than the requirement of this board; and

19          b. Presented to the board current documentation that any practice privilege granted  
20          by another jurisdiction as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant or equivalent  
21          has not been suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted for any reason except  
22          nonrenewal.

23          4. A minimum examination score of seventy-five percent is required to obtain  
24          certification. The examination must be provided by the national board of chiropractic  
25          examiners via the federation of chiropractic licensing boards or a board-approved  
26          examination.

27          5. The fee for renewal of the certification is fifty dollars per year unless a different amount  
28          is provided by administrative rule. Certificate renewal is March first of every year.

29          a. A certified chiropractic clinical assistant shall obtain six hours of continuing  
30          education every two years to renew certification. These hours must be a program  
31          approved by providers of approved continuing education, a seminar sponsored

1           by the North Dakota chiropractic association and approved by the board, or a  
2           seminar approved for continuing education by another state's board of  
3           chiropractic examiners or equivalent. Proof of meeting continuing education  
4           requirements must be submitted with the certified chiropractic clinical assistant's  
5           renewal application on the even-numbered years after initially receiving  
6           certification

7           b. For an applicant who first receive initial certification between January first and  
8           March first, the certification is deemed to be automatically renewed on March first  
9           for an additional year without payment of an additional renewal fee.

10          6. A certified chiropractic clinical assistant must be under the direct supervision of a  
11          North Dakota licensed chiropractor in good standing with the board. Direct supervision  
12          means the oversight provided by the chiropractor over the clinical services performed  
13          by a certified chiropractic clinical assistant, and requires the chiropractor to be on the  
14          premises at all times and readily available to instruct the certified chiropractic clinical  
15          assistant throughout the performance of the clinical services.

16          7. The certified chiropractic clinical assistant may assist the chiropractor in patient care  
17          involving physiotherapy, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy, chiropractic rehabilitative  
18          therapy, administrative processes, and other activities as needed to assist in the  
19          practice of chiropractic. The certified chiropractic clinical assistant may perform  
20          delegated duties commensurate with the certified chiropractic clinical assistant's  
21          education and training, but may not evaluate, interpret, design, or modify established  
22          treatment programs of chiropractic care or violate any statute. Certified chiropractic  
23          clinical assistants may not participate in clinical decisionmaking, render manipulative  
24          chiropractic care, create or change the course of a chiropractic treatment plan, or  
25          represent themselves as independent health care providers. A certified chiropractic  
26          clinical assistant may not perform medical imaging unless also licensed under chapter  
27          43-62 or upon meeting an exception from that chapter.

28          8. The board may deny certification of an applicant, or may revoke, suspend or take  
29          other appropriate disciplinary or corrective action regarding the certification of any  
30          certified chiropractic clinical assistant who:

- a. Has a mental or physical condition that renders the individual unable to safely engage in patient care.
- b. Has been declared incompetent by a court.
- c. Is suffering from alcoholism or drug addiction that endangers the public by impairing the certified chiropractic clinical assistant's ability to practice safely.
- d. Procured the certification to practice by fraud or mistake.
- e. Has engaged in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.
- f. Has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude which would affect the certified chiropractic clinical assistant's ability to safely engage in patient care.
- g. Has aided or assisted a noncertified individual to practice as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant.
- h. Has made advertising statements that are deceiving or misleading to the public.
- i. Has had disciplinary action taken in another jurisdiction.
- j. Has committed any violation of regulations regarding chiropractic found in this chapter or rules adopted by the board.
- k. Has practiced as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant while the certification was suspended or revoked.
- l. Is found guilty of unprofessional conduct that includes:
  - (1) Willfully harassing, abusing, or intimidating a patient either physically or verbally.
  - (2) Any conduct that has endangered or is likely to endanger the health or safety of the public.
  - (3) Conviction of a crime related to the qualification of a certified chiropractic clinical assistant.
  - (4) Conviction of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption.
  - (5) Conviction of violating any law or regulation concerning the dispensing or administration of narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.
  - (6) Knowingly making or signing any false certificates related to the chiropractic care administered.
  - (7) Participation in any act of fraud.

- 1           (8) Except as required by law, the unauthorized disclosure of any information  
2           about a patient revealed or discovered during the course of examination or  
3           treatment.  
4           (9) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person that is not certified to  
5           provide the services.  
6           (10) Initiating or engaging in any sexual conduct, sexual activities, or sexualizing  
7           behavior involving a current patient even if the patient attempts to sexualize  
8           the relationship, except when the patient is the certified chiropractic clinical  
9           assistant's spouse.

10       9. Disciplinary procedures will be conducted in accordance with chapter 28-32, with the  
11       following provisions:

- 12       a. Complaints must be filed and signed in written form or may be considered by the  
13       board on its own motion.  
14       b. The board shall notify the certified chiropractic clinical assistant and the employer  
15       regarding any complaints filed. Full and timely cooperation is required in the  
16       investigation.  
17       c. The board may appoint a peer review committee at its discretion. The peer  
18       review committee has the same authority as a peer review committee appointed  
19       under section 43-06-14.1.  
20       d. If the board finds probable cause to impose disciplinary action, the board shall  
21       prepare a complaint and serve it to the certified chiropractic clinical assistant and  
22       employer.

23       10. The board may increase certification fees by rule up to a maximum of two hundred  
24       dollars for certification or a renewal.

25       11. Certification is not required for individuals who solely perform administrative activities  
26       of a nonclinical nature.

27       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
28       amended and reenacted as follows:

29       **43-06-19. Penalty.**

- 30       1. AnyIt is a class B misdemeanor for any person who fraudulently procures a license to  
31       practice chiropractic or who, without complying with the provisions of this chapter:

- 1        1. a. Practices or attempts to practice chiropractic;
- 2        2. b. Advertises as a chiropractor; or
- 3        3. c. Uses the terms or letters, doctor of chiropractic, chiropractor, D.C., chiropractic
- 4                physician, or any other title that will induce the belief that the person is engaged
- 5                in the practice of chiropractic is guilty of a class B misdemeanor,.
- 6        2. It is an infraction for any person that fraudulently procures a certification to practice as
- 7                a certified chiropractic clinical assistant or that, without complying with the provisions
- 8                of this chapter:
- 9                a. Practices or attempts to practice as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant;
- 10                b. Advertises as a certified chiropractic clinical assistant; or
- 11                c. Uses the terms or letters certified chiropractic clinical assistant, certified
- 12                chiropractic clinical assistant, or any other title that will induce the belief the
- 13                person is engaged in the practice of chiropractic as a certified chiropractic
- 14                assistant.