## SENATE BILL NO. 214-SENATOR HARDY

# MARCH 11, 2021

### JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to prescribing and dispensing prescription drugs. (BDR 54-187)

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 pharmacy; requiring certain licensing boards to regulations governing the adopt prescribing. administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain; revising provisions governing the review and investigation of a complaint alleging certain inappropriate activity relating to controlled substances and the imposition of disciplinary action in response to such a complaint; extending the maximum length of exemptions from certain requirements governing electronic prescriptions; abolishing certain requirements governing the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

#### Legislative Counsel's Digest:

**Section 23** of this bill eliminates certain requirements set forth in existing law governing the prescription and dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain. (NRS 639.2391-639.23916) Instead, **sections 1, 5, 8, 10, 14 and 16** of this bill require licensing boards that regulate practitioners who are authorized to prescribe controlled substances to adopt regulations that establish requirements governing the prescribing, administering and dispensing of a controlled substance for the treatment of pain. **Sections 2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 19** of this bill make conforming changes to remove references to those provisions repealed by **section 23**. Existing law prescribes specific procedures for the review and investigation of

Existing law prescribes specific procedures for the review and investigation of
 complaints relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances. (NRS
 630.323, 631.364, 632.352, 633.574, 635.152, 636.338) Section 23 eliminates these





procedures so that such a complaint is reviewed and investigated in the same manner as other complaints against practitioners who are authorized to prescribe controlled substances. **Sections 4, 7 and 13** of this bill make conforming changes to remove references to the provisions repealed by **section 23**.

16 Existing law authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to suspend or revoke the 17 registration of a practitioner to dispense a controlled substance under certain 18 circumstances. (NRS 453.236) If the Board determines after an investigation that a 19 practitioner has engaged in inappropriate activity relating to the prescribing, 20 administering or dispensing of a controlled substance, section 20 of this bill 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 requires the State Board of Pharmacy to submit a complaint to the licensing board that regulates the practitioner. Section 20 of this bill also requires the State Board of Pharmacy to refer any complaint from another person or entity concerning such activity to the licensing board that regulates the practitioner. Section 20 generally prohibits the Board from suspending or revoking the registration of a practitioner based on the allegations in the complaint unless the licensing board that regulates the practitioner determines that the practitioner has engaged in inappropriate activity relating to the prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance. However, section 21 of this bill authorizes the Board to summarily suspend the registration of a practitioner pending a determination by the relevant 31 licensing board if the Board determines the practitioner poses an imminent danger 32 33 to public health or safety.

Existing law: (1) generally requires a practitioner to give a prescription for a controlled substance to a pharmacy by electronic transmission; and (2) authorizes the Board to exempt a practitioner from that requirement for not more than 1 year if the Board determines that the practitioner is unable to comply with that requirement for certain reasons. (NRS 639.23535) **Section 18** of this bill extends the maximum length of such an exemption to 2 years.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 630 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 The Board shall adopt regulations establishing requirements 4 concerning the prescription, administration and dispensing of a 5 controlled substance for the treatment of pain by a physician or 6 physician assistant. The requirements prescribed by regulation 7 must follow:

8 1. The most current guidelines relating to the prescribing, 9 administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the 10 treatment of pain prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control 11 and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and 12 Human Services; and

13 2. The most current guidelines relating to the prescribing, 14 administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the 15 treatment of pain prescribed by the Federation of State Medical 16 Boards, or its successor organization, to the extent that those 17 guidelines do not conflict with the guidelines described in 18 subsection I.





1 Sec. 2. NRS 630.3062 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 630.3062 1. The following acts, among others, constitute 3 grounds for initiating disciplinary action or denying licensure:

4 (a) Failure to maintain timely, legible, accurate and complete 5 medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a 6 patient.

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(b) Altering medical records of a patient.

8 (c) Making or filing a report which the licensee knows to be 9 false, failing to file a record or report as required by law or 10 knowingly or willfully obstructing or inducing another to obstruct 11 such filing.

(d) Failure to make the medical records of a patient available for
inspection and copying as provided in NRS 629.061, if the licensee
is the custodian of health care records with respect to those records.

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(e) Failure to comply with the requirements of NRS 630.3068.

16 (f) Failure to report any person the licensee knows, or has reason 17 to know, is in violation of the provisions of this chapter or the 18 regulations of the Board within 30 days after the date the licensee 19 knows or has reason to know of the violation.

(g) Failure to comply with the requirements of NRS 453.163,
453.164, 453.226, 639.23507 [,] and 639.23535. [and 639.2391 to
639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State
Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto.]

(h) Fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate
prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance
listed in schedule II, III or IV.

27 2. As used in this section, "custodian of health care records"28 has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 629.016.

29 Sec. 3. NRS 630.3066 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 630.3066 A physician is not subject to disciplinary action 31 solely for:

32 Prescribing or administering to a patient under his or her 1. 33 care a controlled substance which is listed in schedule II, III, IV or 34 V by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to NRS 453.146, if the 35 controlled substance is lawfully prescribed or administered for the 36 treatment of intractable pain in accordance with the provisions of 37 NRS 639.23507, [and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive,] any regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant 38 thereto, any regulations adopted by the Board of Medical 39 40 *Examiners pursuant to section 1 of this act* and any other regulations adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners. 41

42 2. Engaging in any activity in accordance with the provisions 43 of chapter 678C of NRS.





1 Sec. 4. NRS 630.311 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 630.311 [Except as otherwise provided in NRS 630.323, a] 1.

3 A committee designated by the Board and consisting of members of 4 the Board shall review each complaint and conduct an investigation 5 to determine if there is a reasonable basis for the complaint. The 6 committee must be composed of at least three members of the Board, at least one of whom is not a physician. The committee may 7 issue orders to aid its investigation including, but not limited to, 8 9 compelling a physician to appear before the committee.

10 If, after conducting an investigation, the committee 2. determines that there is a reasonable basis for the complaint and that 11 12 a violation of any provision of this chapter has occurred, the 13 committee may file a formal complaint with the Board.

14 3. The proceedings of the committee are confidential and are 15 not subject to the requirements of NRS 241.020. Within 20 days 16 after the conclusion of each meeting of the committee, the Board 17 shall publish a summary setting forth the proceedings and 18 determinations of the committee. The summary must not identify 19 any person involved in the complaint that is the subject of the 20 proceedings.

21 Sec. 5. Chapter 631 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 22 thereto a new section to read as follows:

23 The Board shall adopt regulations establishing requirements 24 concerning the prescription, administration and dispensing of a 25 controlled substance for the treatment of pain by a dentist. The 26 requirements prescribed by regulation must follow the most 27 current guidelines relating to the prescribing, administering and 28 dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain 29 prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of 30 the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

31 **Sec. 6.** NRS 631.3475 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 631.3475 The following acts, among others, constitute 33 unprofessional conduct: 34

1. Malpractice;

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2. Professional incompetence;

Suspension or revocation of a license to practice dentistry, 36 3. 37 the imposition of a fine or other disciplinary action by any agency of 38 another state authorized to regulate the practice of dentistry in that 39 state;

40 4. More than one act by the dentist, dental hygienist or dental therapist constituting substandard care in the practice of dentistry, 41 42 dental hygiene or dental therapy;

43 Administering, dispensing or prescribing any controlled 5. 44 substance or any dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS, 45 if it is not required to treat the dentist's patient;





Knowingly procuring or administering a controlled
 substance or a dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS that
 is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration,
 unless the unapproved controlled substance or dangerous drug:

5 (a) Was procured through a retail pharmacy licensed pursuant to 6 chapter 639 of NRS;

7 (b) Was procured through a Canadian pharmacy which is 8 licensed pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS and which has been 9 recommended by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to 10 subsection 4 of NRS 639.2328; or

(c) Is cannabis being used for medical purposes in accordance
 with chapter 678C of NRS;

7. Having an alcohol or other substance use disorder to such an
extent as to render the person unsafe or unreliable as a practitioner,
or such gross immorality as tends to bring reproach upon the dental
profession;

17 8. Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral 18 turpitude or which relates to the practice of dentistry in this State, or 19 conviction of any criminal violation of this chapter;

9. Conviction of violating any of the provisions of NRS 1 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, 2 inclusive;

10. Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 453.163,
453.164, 453.226, 639.23507 [,] and 639.23535; [and 639.2391 to
639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State
Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto.]

11. Fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate
prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance
listed in schedule II, III or IV;

12. Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 454.217 or 629.086;

32 13. Failure to obtain any training required by the Board33 pursuant to NRS 631.344; or

34 14. Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS35 449.0151, at any time during which:

36 (a) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or

(b) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension orrevocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.

39  $\rightarrow$  This subsection applies to an owner or other principal responsible 40 for the operation of the facility.

41 Sec. 7. NRS 631.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 631.360 1. [Except as otherwise provided in NRS 631.364,
43 the] *The* Board may, upon its own motion, and shall, upon the
44 verified complaint in writing of any person setting forth facts which,
45 if proven, would constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action,





investigate the actions of any person who practices dentistry, dental 1 2 hygiene or dental therapy in this State. A complaint may be filed 3 anonymously. If a complaint is filed anonymously, the Board may 4 accept the complaint but may refuse to consider the complaint if 5 anonymity of the complainant makes processing the complaint impossible or unfair to the person who is the subject of the 6 7 complaint.

The Board shall, before initiating disciplinary action, at least 8 2. 9 10 days before the date set for the hearing, notify the accused person in writing of any charges made. The notice may be served by 10 delivery of it personally to the accused person or by mailing it 11 12 by registered or certified mail to the place of business last specified 13 by the accused person, as registered with the Board.

14 3. At the time and place fixed in the notice, the Board shall 15 proceed to hear the charges. If the Board receives a report pursuant 16 to subsection 5 of NRS 228.420, a hearing must be held within 30 17 days after receiving the report.

18 The Board may compel the attendance of witnesses or the 4. 19 production of documents or objects by subpoena. The Board may 20 adopt regulations that set forth a procedure pursuant to which the 21 Executive Director may issue subpoenas on behalf of the Board. 22 Any person who is subpoended pursuant to this subsection may 23 request the Board to modify the terms of the subpoena or grant 24 additional time for compliance.

25 The Board may obtain a search warrant from a magistrate 5. 26 upon a showing that the warrant is needed for an investigation or 27 hearing being conducted by the Board and that reasonable cause 28 exists to issue the warrant.

29 6. If the Board is not sitting at the time and place fixed in the notice, or at the time and place to which the hearing has been 30 31 continued, the Board shall continue the hearing for a period not to 32 exceed 30 days.

33 7. The Board shall retain all complaints received by the Board 34 pursuant to this section for at least 10 years, including, without 35 limitation, any complaints not acted upon. 36

Sec. 8. NRS 632.237 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 632.237 The Board may issue a license to practice as an 1. 38 advanced practice registered nurse to a registered nurse:

39 (a) Who is licensed by endorsement pursuant to NRS 632.161 or 40 632.162 and holds a corresponding valid and unrestricted license to 41 practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the District of 42 Columbia or any other state or territory of the United States; or

43 (b) Who:

44 (1) Has completed an educational program designed to 45 prepare a registered nurse to:





1 (I) Perform designated acts of medical diagnosis; 2 (II) Prescribe therapeutic or corrective measures; and 3 (III) Prescribe controlled substances, poisons, dangerous 4 drugs and devices; 5 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, submits 6 proof that he or she is certified as an advanced practice registered nurse by the American Board of Nursing Specialties, the National 7 8 Commission for Certifying Agencies of the Institute for 9 Credentialing Excellence, or their successor organizations, or any other nationally recognized certification agency approved by the 10 11 Board: and 12 (3) Meets any other requirements established by the Board 13 for such licensure. 14 2. An advanced practice registered nurse may: 15 (a) Engage in selected medical diagnosis and treatment; 16 (b) Order home health care for a patient; (c) If authorized pursuant to NRS 639.2351 and subject to the 17 18 limitations set forth in subsection 3, prescribe controlled substances, 19 poisons, dangerous drugs and devices; and 20 (d) Provide his or her signature, certification, stamp, verification 21 or endorsement when a signature, certification, stamp, verification 22 or endorsement by a physician is required, if providing such a 23 signature, certification, stamp, verification or endorsement is within 24 the authorized scope of practice of an advanced practice registered 25 nurse. 26 → An advanced practice registered nurse shall not engage in any 27 diagnosis, treatment or other conduct which the advanced practice 28 registered nurse is not qualified to perform. 29 3. An advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized to prescribe controlled substances, poisons, dangerous drugs and 30 31 devices pursuant to NRS 639.2351 shall not prescribe a controlled 32 substance listed in schedule II unless: 33 (a) The advanced practice registered nurse has at least 2 years or 34 2,000 hours of clinical experience; or 35 (b) The controlled substance is prescribed pursuant to a protocol 36 approved by a collaborating physician. 37 4. An advanced practice registered nurse may perform the acts 38 described in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection 2 by using 39 equipment that transfers information concerning the medical 40 condition of a patient in this State electronically, telephonically or by fiber optics, including, without limitation, through telehealth, as 41 42 defined in NRS 629.515, from within or outside this State or the 43 United States. 44 5. Nothing in paragraph (d) of subsection 2 shall be deemed to 45 expand the scope of practice of an advanced practice registered

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nurse who provides his or her signature, certification, stamp,

2 verification or endorsement in the place of a physician.

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The Board shall adopt regulations: (a) Specifying any additional training, education and experience 4 5 necessary for licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse.

6 (b) Delineating the authorized scope of practice of an advanced 7 practice registered nurse, including, without limitation, when an 8 advanced practice registered nurse is qualified to provide his or her 9 signature, certification, stamp, verification or endorsement in the 10 place of a physician.

11 (c) Establishing the procedure for application for licensure as an 12 advanced practice registered nurse.

13 (d) Establishing requirements concerning the prescription, 14 administration and dispensing of a controlled substance for the 15 treatment of pain by an advanced practice registered nurse. The 16 requirements prescribed by regulation must follow the most 17 current guidelines relating to the prescribing, administering and 18 dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of 19 20 the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

21 The provisions of subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of 7. 22 subsection 1 do not apply to an advanced practice registered nurse 23 who obtains a license before July 1, 2014.

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Sec. 9. NRS 632.347 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 632.347 1. The Board may deny, revoke or suspend any 26 license or certificate applied for or issued pursuant to this chapter, or 27 take other disciplinary action against a licensee or holder of a 28 certificate, upon determining that the licensee or certificate holder:

29 (a) Is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to 30 procure a license or certificate pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Is guilty of any offense:

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(1) Involving moral turpitude; or

33 (2) Related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a 34 licensee or holder of a certificate.

 $\rightarrow$  in which case the record of conviction is conclusive evidence 35 36 thereof.

(c) Has been convicted of violating any of the provisions of 37 NRS 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, 38 39 inclusive.

40 (d) Is unfit or incompetent by reason of gross negligence or 41 recklessness in carrying out usual nursing functions.

42 (e) Uses any controlled substance, dangerous drug as defined in 43 chapter 454 of NRS, or intoxicating liquor to an extent or in a 44 manner which is dangerous or injurious to any other person or





which impairs his or her ability to conduct the practice authorized
 by the license or certificate.

(f) Is a person with mental incompetence.

4 (g) Is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is 5 not limited to, the following:

6 (1) Conviction of practicing medicine without a license in 7 violation of chapter 630 of NRS, in which case the record of 8 conviction is conclusive evidence thereof.

9 (2) Impersonating any applicant or acting as proxy for an 10 applicant in any examination required pursuant to this chapter for 11 the issuance of a license or certificate.

12 (3) Impersonating another licensed practitioner or holder of a 13 certificate.

(4) Permitting or allowing another person to use his or her
license or certificate to practice as a licensed practical nurse,
registered nurse, nursing assistant or medication aide - certified.

(5) Repeated malpractice, which may be evidenced by claimsof malpractice settled against the licensee or certificate holder.

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(6) Physical, verbal or psychological abuse of a patient.

20 (7) Conviction for the use or unlawful possession of a 21 controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of 22 NRS.

(h) Has willfully or repeatedly violated the provisions of this
chapter. The voluntary surrender of a license or certificate issued
pursuant to this chapter is prima facie evidence that the licensee or
certificate holder has committed or expects to commit a violation of
this chapter.

(i) Is guilty of aiding or abetting any person in a violation of thischapter.

(j) Has falsified an entry on a patient's medical chart concerning
 a controlled substance.

(k) Has falsified information which was given to a physician,
 pharmacist, podiatric physician or dentist to obtain a controlled
 substance.

(1) Has knowingly procured or administered a controlled
substance or a dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS that
is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration,
unless the unapproved controlled substance or dangerous drug:

39 (1) Was procured through a retail pharmacy licensed 40 pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS;

41 (2) Was procured through a Canadian pharmacy which is 42 licensed pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS and which has been 43 recommended by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to 44 subsection 4 of NRS 639.2328;





1 (3) Is cannabis being used for medical purposes in 2 accordance with chapter 678C of NRS; or

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(4) Is an investigational drug or biological product prescribed to a patient pursuant to NRS 630.3735 or 633.6945. 4

5 (m) Has been disciplined in another state in connection with a 6 license to practice nursing or a certificate to practice as a nursing assistant or medication aide - certified, or has committed an act in 7 8 another state which would constitute a violation of this chapter.

9 (n) Has engaged in conduct likely to deceive, defraud or endanger a patient or the general public. 10

11 (o) Has willfully failed to comply with a regulation, subpoena or 12 order of the Board.

(p) Has operated a medical facility at any time during which:

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(1) The license of the facility was suspended or revoked; or

(2) An act or omission occurred which resulted in the 15 16 suspension or revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.

17 This paragraph applies to an owner or other principal responsible 18 for the operation of the facility.

19 (q) Is an advanced practice registered nurse who has failed to 20 any training required by the Board pursuant obtain to NRS 632.2375. 21

22 (r) Is an advanced practice registered nurse who has failed to 23 comply with the provisions of NRS 453.163, 453.164, 453.226, 24 639.23507 [,] and 639.23535 . [and 639.2391 to 639.23916, 25 inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State Board of 26 Pharmacy pursuant thereto.]

(s) Has engaged in the fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or 27 28 otherwise inappropriate prescribing, administering or dispensing of 29 a controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV.

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(t) Has violated the provisions of NRS 454.217 or 629.086.

31 2. For the purposes of this section, a plea or verdict of guilty or 32 guilty but mentally ill or a plea of nolo contendere constitutes a 33 conviction of an offense. The Board may take disciplinary action 34 pending the appeal of a conviction.

35 3. A licensee or certificate holder is not subject to disciplinary 36 action solely for administering auto-injectable epinephrine pursuant 37 to a valid order issued pursuant to NRS 630.374 or 633.707.

As used in this section, "investigational drug or biological 38 4. 39 product" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 454.351.

40 **Sec. 10.** Chapter 633 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 41 thereto a new section to read as follows:

42 The Board shall adopt regulations establishing requirements 43 concerning the prescription, administration and dispensing of a 44 controlled substance for the treatment of pain by an osteopathic





5 treatment of pain prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and 6 7 Human Services; and 8 2. The most current guidelines relating to the prescribing, 9 administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain prescribed by the Federation of State Medical 10 Boards, or its successor organization, to the extent that those 11 12 guidelines do not conflict with the guidelines described in 13 subsection 1. 14 **Sec. 11.** NRS 633.511 is hereby amended to read as follows: 15 633.511 1. The grounds for initiating disciplinary action 16 pursuant to this chapter are: 17 (a) Unprofessional conduct. 18 (b) Conviction of: (1) A violation of any federal or state law regulating the 19 20 possession, distribution or use of any controlled substance or any 21 dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS; 22 (2) A felony relating to the practice of osteopathic medicine 23 or practice as a physician assistant; 24 (3) A violation of any of the provisions of NRS 616D.200, 25 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, inclusive; 26 (4) Murder, voluntary manslaughter or mayhem; 27 (5) Any felony involving the use of a firearm or other deadly 28 weapon; 29 (6) Assault with intent to kill or to commit sexual assault or 30 mayhem; 31 (7) Sexual assault, statutory sexual seduction, incest, 32 lewdness, indecent exposure or any other sexually related crime; 33 (8) Abuse or neglect of a child or contributory delinquency; 34 or 35 (9) Any offense involving moral turpitude. 36 (c) The suspension of a license to practice osteopathic medicine 37 or to practice as a physician assistant by any other jurisdiction. 38 (d) Malpractice or gross malpractice, which may be evidenced by a claim of malpractice settled against a licensee. 39 40 (e) Professional incompetence. (f) Failure to comply with the requirements of NRS 633.527. 41 42 (g) Failure to comply with the requirements of subsection 3 of 43 NRS 633.471.

(h) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 633.694.



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regulation must follow:

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The most current guidelines relating to the prescribing,

physician or physician assistant. The requirements prescribed by

administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the

1 (i) Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS 449.0151, 2 at any time during which:

3 1 (1) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or

4 (2) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension 5 or revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.

6  $\rightarrow$  This paragraph applies to an owner or other principal responsible 7 for the operation of the facility.

8 (j) Failure to comply with the provisions of subsection 2 of 9 NRS 633.322.

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(k) Signing a blank prescription form.

11 (1) Knowingly or willfully procuring or administering a 12 controlled substance or a dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 13 of NRS that is not approved by the United States Food and Drug 14 Administration, unless the unapproved controlled substance or 15 dangerous drug:

16 (1) Was procured through a retail pharmacy licensed 17 pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS;

18 (2) Was procured through a Canadian pharmacy which is 19 licensed pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS and which has been 20 recommended by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to 21 subsection 4 of NRS 639.2328;

(3) Is cannabis being used for medical purposes in
 accordance with chapter 678C of NRS; or

(4) Is an investigational drug or biological product prescribed
 to a patient pursuant to NRS 630.3735 or 633.6945.

(m) Attempting, directly or indirectly, by intimidation, coercion
or deception, to obtain or retain a patient or to discourage the use of
a second opinion.

(n) Terminating the medical care of a patient without adequate
 notice or without making other arrangements for the continued care
 of the patient.

(o) 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 knowingly or willfully obstructing or inducing another to obstruct the making or filing of such a record or report.

(p) 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.

(q) 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 1 2 jurisdiction of a foreign country. 3 (r) Engaging in any act that is unsafe in accordance with 4 regulations adopted by the Board. (s) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 629.515. 5 6 (t) Failure to supervise adequately a medical assistant pursuant 7 to the regulations of the Board. 8 (u) Failure to obtain any training required by the Board pursuant 9 to NRS 633.473. (v) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 633.6955. 10 (w) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 453.163, 11 12 453.164, 453.226, 639.23507 [,] and 639.23535 . [and 639.2391 to 13 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State 14 **Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto.**] (x) Fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate 15 16 prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance 17 listed in schedule II, III or IV. (y) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 454.217 or 18 19 629.086. 20 2. As used in this section, "investigational drug or biological 21 product" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 454.351. 22 Sec. 12. NRS 633.521 is hereby amended to read as follows: 23 633.521 An osteopathic physician is not subject to disciplinary 24 action solely for: 25 Prescribing or administering to a patient under his or her 1. 26 care: 27 (a) Amygdalin (laetrile), if the patient has consented to the use 28 of the substance. 29 (b) Procaine hydrochloride with preservatives and stabilizers 30 (Gerovital H3). (c) A controlled substance which is listed in schedule II, III, IV 31 32 or V by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to NRS 453.146, if 33 the controlled substance is lawfully prescribed or administered for the treatment of intractable pain in accordance with the provisions 34 of NRS 639.23507 [and 639.2391 to 639.23916, inclusive, and any 35 36 regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant 37 thereto], the regulations adopted by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine pursuant to section 10 of this act and the 38 accepted standards for the practice of osteopathic medicine. 39 40 2. Engaging in any activity in accordance with the provisions of chapter 678C of NRS. 41 42 Sec. 13. NRS 633.541 is hereby amended to read as follows: 43 633.541 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 633.574, 1. 44 when When a complaint is filed with the Board, the Board shall 45 designate a member of the Board to review the complaint.





1 2. If the member of the Board determines that the complaint is 2 not frivolous, he or she shall conduct an investigation of the 3 complaint to determine whether there is a reasonable basis for the complaint. In performing the investigation, the member of the Board 4 5 may request the assistance of the Attorney General or contract with a private investigator designated by the Executive Director of the 6 Board who is licensed pursuant to chapter 648 of NRS or any other 7 8 person designated by the Executive Director of the Board.

9 If, after conducting the investigation pursuant to subsection 3. 2, the member of the Board determines that there is a reasonable 10 basis for the complaint and that a violation of a provision of this 11 12 chapter has occurred, the member of the Board may file a formal 13 complaint with the Board specifying the grounds for disciplinary 14 action.

15 **Sec. 14.** Chapter 635 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 16 thereto a new section to read as follows:

The Board shall adopt regulations establishing requirements 17 concerning the prescription, administration and dispensing of a 18 19 controlled substance for the treatment of pain by a podiatric 20 physician. The requirements prescribed by regulation must follow 21 the most current guidelines relating to the prescribing, 22 administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the 23 treatment of pain prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control 24 and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. 25 26

**Sec. 15.** NRS 635.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 635.130 1. The Board, after notice and a hearing as required 28 by law, and upon any cause enumerated in subsection 2, may take 29 one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

30 (a) Deny an application for a license or refuse to renew a 31 license.

32 (b) Suspend or revoke a license.

33 (c) Place a licensee on probation.

34 (d) Impose a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

35 2. The Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee for 36 any of the following causes:

37 (a) The making of a false statement in any affidavit required of 38 the applicant for application, examination or licensure pursuant to 39 the provisions of this chapter.

40 (b) Lending the use of the holder's name to an unlicensed 41 person.

42 (c) If the holder is a podiatric physician, permitting an 43 unlicensed person in his or her employ to practice as a podiatry 44 hygienist.





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1 (d) Having an alcohol or other substance use disorder which 2 impairs the intellect and judgment to such an extent as in the 3 opinion of the Board incapacitates the holder in the performance of 4 his or her professional duties.

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(e) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude.

6 (f) Conviction of violating any of the provisions of NRS 7 616D.200, 616D.220, 616D.240 or 616D.300 to 616D.440, 8 inclusive.

9 (g) Conduct which in the opinion of the Board disqualifies the 10 licensee to practice with safety to the public.

11 (h) The commission of fraud by or on behalf of the licensee 12 regarding his or her license or practice.

13 (i) Gross incompetency.

14 (j) Affliction of the licensee with any mental or physical 15 disorder which seriously impairs his or her competence as a 16 podiatric physician or podiatry hygienist.

17 (k) False representation by or on behalf of the licensee regarding 18 his or her practice.

19 (l) Unethical or unprofessional conduct.

20 (m) Failure to comply with the requirements of subsection 1 of 21 NRS 635.118.

(n) Willful or repeated violations of this chapter or regulationsadopted by the Board.

(o) Willful violation of the regulations adopted by the StateBoard of Pharmacy.

(p) Knowingly procuring or administering a controlled
substance or a dangerous drug as defined in chapter 454 of NRS that
is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration,
unless the unapproved controlled substance or dangerous drug:

30 (1) Was procured through a retail pharmacy licensed 31 pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS;

32 (2) Was procured through a Canadian pharmacy which is 33 licensed pursuant to chapter 639 of NRS and which has been 34 recommended by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to 35 subsection 4 of NRS 639.2328; or

36 (3) Is cannabis being used for medical purposes in37 accordance with chapter 678C of NRS.

(q) Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS 449.0151,
at any time during which:

40

(1) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or

41 (2) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension 42 or revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.

43 → This paragraph applies to an owner or other principal responsible
44 for the operation of the facility.





1 (r) Failure to obtain any training required by the Board pursuant 2 to NRS 635.116.

3 (s) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 453.163, 453.164, 453.226, 639.23507 [,] and 639.23535 . [and 639.2391 to 4 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State 5 6 **Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto.**]

7 (t) Fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate 8 prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance 9 listed in schedule II. III or IV.

10 (u) Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 454.217 or 11 629.086.

12 **Sec. 16.** Chapter 636 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 13 thereto a new section to read as follows:

The Board shall adopt regulations establishing requirements 14 15 concerning the prescription, administration and dispensing of a 16 controlled substance for the treatment of pain by an optometrist 17 who is certified to administer and prescribe pharmaceutical agents 18 pursuant to NRS 636.288. The requirements prescribed by 19 regulation must follow the most current guidelines relating to the 20 prescribing, administering and dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain prescribed by the Centers for 21 22 Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department 23 of Health and Human Services. 24

Sec. 17. NRS 636.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 636.295 The following acts, conduct, omissions, or mental or 26 physical conditions, or any of them, committed, engaged in, 27 omitted, or being suffered by a licensee, constitute sufficient cause 28 for disciplinary action:

29 1. Commission by the licensee of a felony relating to the 30 practice of optometry or a gross misdemeanor involving moral turpitude of which the licensee has been convicted and from which 31 32 he or she has been sentenced by a final judgment of a federal or 33 state court in this or any other state, the judgment not having been reversed or vacated by a competent appellate court and the offense 34 35 not having been pardoned by executive authority.

36 2. Commission of fraud by or on behalf of the licensee in 37 obtaining a license or a renewal thereof, or in practicing optometry 38 thereunder.

39 3. An alcohol or other substance use disorder.

40 4. Gross incompetency.

41 5. Affliction with any mental or physical disorder or 42 disturbance seriously impairing his or her competency as an 43 optometrist.

44 Making false or misleading representations, by or on behalf 6. 45 of the licensee, with respect to optometric materials or services.





1 7. Practice by the licensee, or attempting or offering so to do, 2 while in an intoxicated condition.

3 8. Perpetration of unethical or unprofessional conduct in the 4 practice of optometry.

5 9. Any violation of the provisions of this chapter or any 6 regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

7 10. Operation of a medical facility, as defined in NRS 8 449.0151, at any time during which:

(a) The license of the facility is suspended or revoked; or

10 (b) An act or omission occurs which results in the suspension or 11 revocation of the license pursuant to NRS 449.160.

12  $\rightarrow$  This subsection applies to an owner or other principal responsible 13 for the operation of the facility.

14 11. Failure to comply with the provisions of NRS 453.163, 15 453.164, 453.226, 639.23507 [,] and 639.23535 . [and 639.2391 to 16 639.23916, inclusive, and any regulations adopted by the State 17 Board of Pharmacy pursuant thereto.]

18 12. Fraudulent, illegal, unauthorized or otherwise inappropriate 19 prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance 20 listed in schedule III or IV.

13. Any violation of a state or federal law or regulation relating
to or involving the practice of optometry, including, without
limitation, a violation relating to:

(a) The organizational structure or control of any optometricpractice or entity;

(b) The maintenance, availability or distribution of any medical
 record of a patient;

(c) The improper disclosure of any protected information of apatient; and

30 (d) Fraud.

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31 Sec. 18. NRS 639.23535 is hereby amended to read as 32 follows:

639.23535 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection
and except as otherwise provided by regulations adopted by the
Board, a prescription for a controlled substance must be given to a
pharmacy by electronic transmission in accordance with the
regulations adopted by the Board. The requirements of this
subsection do not apply to a prescription:

39 (a) Issued by a veterinarian;

40 (b) Issued under circumstances prescribed by regulation of the 41 Board where:

42 (1) Electronic transmission is unavailable due to technologic43 or electronic failure; or

44 (2) The drug will be dispensed at a pharmacy located outside45 of this State;





(e) For which electronic prescribing is prohibited by federal law;

1 (c) Issued by a practitioner who will also dispense the drug;

2 (d) That includes, without limitation, information that is not 3 supported by the program for electronically transmitting prescriptions prescribed by the National Council for Prescription 4 5 Drug Programs or its successor organization or, if that entity ceases 6 to exist, a program designated by the Board;

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(f) That is not issued for a specific patient; (g) Issued pursuant to a protocol for research;

(h) Issued by a practitioner who has received a waiver from the 10 Board pursuant to subsection 2; or 11

12 (i) Issued under circumstances in which the practitioner 13 determines that:

14 (1) The patient is unable to obtain the drug in a timely 15 manner if the prescription is given by electronic transmission; and

16 (2) Delay will adversely affect the patient's medical 17 condition.

18 2. The Board may exempt a practitioner from the requirements 19 of subsection 1 for not more than [1 year] 2 years if the Board 20 determines that the practitioner is unable to give a prescription to a 21 pharmacy by electronic transmission because of economic hardship, 22 technological limitations that are not within the control of the 23 practitioner or other exceptional circumstances.

24 A prescription for a controlled substance given to a 25 pharmacy by a means other than electronic transmission under the 26 conditions prescribed in subsection 1 or 2 must be given: 27

(a) Directly from the practitioner to a pharmacist;

28 (b) Indirectly by means of an order or written prescription 29 signed by the practitioner;

30 (c) By an order transmitted orally by an agent of the practitioner; 31 or

(d) By transmission using a facsimile machine.

33 This section must not be construed to require a pharmacist 4. 34 to:

35 (a) Verify that a prescription that is given by means other than 36 electronic transmission meets the requirements of subsection 1; or

37 (b) Require a practitioner to indicate in a prescription for a 38 controlled substance given to a pharmacy by means other than 39 electronic transmission under the conditions prescribed in 40 subsection 1 or 2 the circumstances authorizing the alternative 41 means of delivery.

42 5. If the Board determines that a person has violated any 43 provision of this section or any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, 44 the Board may:





1 (a) Issue and serve on the person an order to cease and desist the 2 conduct, which must include, without limitation, the telephone 3 number to contact the Board.

4 (b) Issue a citation to the person. A citation issued pursuant to 5 this subsection must be in writing, describe with particularity the nature of the violation and inform the person of the provisions of 6 this subsection. Each activity in which the person is engaged 7 8 constitutes a separate offense for which a separate citation may be 9 issued. To appeal a citation, the person must submit a written 10 request for a hearing to the Board not later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the citation. 11

12 (c) Assess against the person an administrative fine of not more 13 than \$5,000.

14 (d) Impose any combination of the penalties set forth in 15 paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

16 6. Violation of any provision of this section or any regulations 17 adopted pursuant thereto is subject only to the administrative 18 penalties described in subsection 5 and any professional discipline 19 imposed by the Board.

20 Sec. 19. NRS 639.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:

639.310 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 639.23535 ,
[and 639.23916,] unless a greater penalty is specified, any person
who violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a
misdemeanor.

Sec. 20. NRS 453.236 is hereby amended to read as follows:

453.236 1. The Board may suspend or revoke a registration
pursuant to NRS 453.231 to dispense a controlled substance upon a
finding that the registrant has:

(a) Furnished false or fraudulent material information in an
 application filed pursuant to NRS 453.011 to 453.552, inclusive;

31 (b) Been convicted of a felony under a state or federal law 32 relating to a controlled substance;

(c) Had his or her federal registration to dispense controlled
 substances suspended or revoked and is no longer authorized by
 federal law to dispense those substances; *or*

(d) [Violated] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7,
 violated any provision of NRS 453.162 to 453.165, inclusive, or
 639.23507 [;] or

39 **[(e) Committed]** *committed* an act that would render registration 40 under NRS 453.231 inconsistent with the public interest as 41 determined pursuant to that section.

42 2. The Board may limit revocation or suspension of a 43 registration to the particular controlled substance with respect to 44 which grounds for revocation or suspension exist.



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1 3. If a registration is suspended or revoked, the Board may 2 place under seal all controlled substances owned or possessed by the 3 registrant at the time of suspension or the effective date of the 4 revocation. No disposition may be made of substances under seal 5 until the time for taking an appeal has elapsed or until all appeals 6 have been concluded unless a court, upon application therefor, orders the sale of perishable substances and the deposit of the 7 8 proceeds of the sale with the court. When a revocation becomes 9 final, the court may order the controlled substances forfeited to the 10 State.

11 4. The Board may seize or place under seal any controlled 12 substance owned or possessed by a registrant whose registration has 13 expired or who has ceased to practice or do business in the manner 14 permitted by the registration. The controlled substance must be held for the benefit of the registrant or the registrant's successor in 15 16 interest. The Board shall notify a registrant, or the registrant's 17 successor in interest, whose controlled substance is seized or placed 18 under seal, of the procedures to be followed to secure the return of 19 the controlled substance and the conditions under which it will be 20 returned. The Board may not dispose of a controlled substance 21 seized or placed under seal under this subsection until the expiration 22 of 180 days after the controlled substance was seized or placed 23 under seal. The Board may recover costs it incurred in seizing, 24 placing under seal, maintaining custody and disposing of any 25 controlled substance under this subsection from the registrant, from 26 any proceeds obtained from the disposition of the controlled 27 substance, or from both. The Board shall pay to the registrant or the 28 registrant's successor in interest any balance of the proceeds of any 29 disposition remaining after the costs have been recovered.

5. The Board shall promptly notify the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Division of all orders suspending or revoking registration and the Division shall promptly notify the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Board of all forfeitures of controlled substances.

6. A registrant shall not employ as his or her agent or employee
in any premises where controlled substances are sold, dispensed,
stored or held for sale any person whose pharmacist's certificate has
been suspended or revoked.

7. If the Board determines after its own investigation that a registrant has engaged in inappropriate activity relating to the prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance, including, without limitation, a violation of NRS 453.162 to 43 453.165, inclusive, or 639.23507, the Board shall submit a complaint to the licensing board that regulates the registrant. The Board shall refer any complaint submitted by another person or





entity concerning such activity of a registrant to the licensing 1 2 board that regulates the registrant. Except as otherwise authorized 3 by subsection 3 of NRS 453.241, the Board must not revoke or suspend the registration based on the activity alleged in the 4 complaint unless the licensing board determines that the 5 6 practitioner has engaged in inappropriate activity related to 7 the prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled 8 substance.

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Sec. 21. NRS 453.241 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 Administrative proceedings by the Board to deny, 453.241 1. suspend or revoke a registration must be initiated, conducted and 11 12 concluded pursuant to the provisions of NRS 639.241 to 639.257, 13 inclusive, without regard to any criminal prosecution or other proceeding, but instead of the methods of discipline provided in 14 15 paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection 1 of NRS 639.255, the Board 16 shall:

17 (a) Suspend the right of the registrant to use his or her 18 registration or a schedule thereof; or

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(b) Revoke the registration or a schedule thereof.

20 2. Proceedings to refuse renewal of registration do not abate 21 the existing registration, which remains in effect pending the 22 outcome of the administrative hearing.

23 3. The Board may suspend, before the hearing, any registration 24 with the institution of proceedings under NRS 453.236, or where 25 renewal of registration is refused, if it finds that there is an imminent 26 danger to the public health or safety which warrants this action. The 27 suspension continues in effect until the conclusion of the 28 proceedings, including judicial review thereof, unless sooner 29 withdrawn by the Board or dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction. In the event of such a suspension the Board shall 30 conduct a hearing at the earliest possible date, but in any event, the 31 32 hearing must be conducted no later than 15 days after the date of 33 suspension unless a continuance is requested by the registrant or the 34 registrant otherwise prevents the holding of the hearing.

4. If, upon the conclusion of a hearing pursuant to subsection 3, the Board concludes that a registrant has engaged in inappropriate activity related to the prescribing, administering or dispensing of a controlled substance but has not engaged in any other activity described in subsection 1 of NRS 453.236, the Board:

41 (a) May continue the suspension until the licensing board that 42 regulates the registrant renders a decision concerning the 43 complaint referred to the licensing board pursuant to subsection 7 44 of NRS 453.236.





1 (b) Must not revoke the registration unless the licensing board 2 that regulates the registrant determines that the registrant has 3 engaged in inappropriate activity related to the prescribing, 4 administering or dispensing of a controlled substance.

5 Sec. 22. 1. The regulations adopted by the Board of Medical 6 Examiners pursuant to NRS 630.323, which are codified as NAC 7 630.258, are hereby declared void. In preparing the supplements to 8 the Nevada Administrative Code on or after October 1, 2021, the 9 Legislative Counsel shall remove those regulations.

2. The regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy pursuant to NRS 639.23916, which are codified as NAC 639.823 to 639.838, inclusive, are hereby declared void. In preparing the supplements to the Nevada Administrative Code on or after October 1, 2021, the Legislative Counsel shall remove those regulations.

Sec. 23. NRS 630.323, 631.364, 632.352, 633.574, 635.152,
636.338, 639.2391, 639.23911, 639.23912, 639.23913, 639.23914,
639.239145 and 639.23916 are hereby repealed.

19 Sec. 24. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and 20 approval.

21 2. Sections 1 to 23, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting any
 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
 (b) On Japuary 1, 2022, for all other purposes

(b) On January 1, 2022, for all other purposes.

#### LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

630.323 Review and investigation of complaint relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances; notice to licensee; formal complaint and hearing; referral or postponement of investigation; regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin for physicians and physician assistants regarding relevant law.

631.364 Review and investigation of complaint relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances; notice to licensee; formal complaint and hearing; referral or postponement of investigation; regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin for dentists regarding relevant law.





632.352 Review and investigation of complaint relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances; notice to licensee; formal complaint and hearing; referral or postponement of investigation; regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin for advanced practice registered nurses regarding relevant law.

633.574 Review and investigation of complaint relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances; notice to licensee; formal complaint and hearing; referral or postponement of investigation; regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin regarding relevant law.

635.152 Review and investigation of complaint relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances; notice to licensee; formal complaint and hearing; referral or postponement of investigation; regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin for podiatric physicians relating to relevant law.

636.338 Review and investigation of complaint relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances; notice to licensee; formal complaint and hearing; referral or postponement of investigation; regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin for optometrist certified to prescribe and administer pharmaceutical agents relating to relevant law.

639.2391 Required documentation for prescription of certain controlled substances for treatment of pain; prohibition on issuing initial prescription for certain controlled substances in certain quantities and amounts.

639.23911 Initial prescription for certain controlled substances for treatment of pain: Requirements for issuance; condition on issuing additional prescriptions.

639.23912 Initial prescription for certain controlled substances for treatment of pain: Requirements for evaluation and risk assessment of patient; contents and documentation of informed consent of patient.

639.23913 Requirements for prescribing certain controlled substances to patients who have used controlled substance for 90 consecutive days; revised treatment plan required for such prescription.

639.23914 Prescription medication agreement required for prescriptions for certain controlled substances issued for more than 30 days; contents.

639.239145 Prescriptions for certain controlled substances for treatment of pain of patients diagnosed with cancer or sickle cell disease or receiving hospice care or palliative care.



639.23916 Regulations; explanation or technical advisory bulletin for certain professional licensing boards regarding relevant law; effect of violation of certain provisions.



