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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 354 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, BOSCOLA, MENSCH, SCHWANK, HUGHES,  
RAFFERTY, BROWNE AND SABATINA, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
AS AMENDED, JANUARY 23, 2018

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L.345, No.48), entitled "An  
2 act empowering the General Counsel or his designee to issue  
3 subpoenas for certain licensing board activities; providing  
4 for hearing examiners in the Bureau of Professional and  
5 Occupational Affairs; providing additional powers to the  
6 Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs; and  
7 further providing for civil penalties and license  
8 suspension," further providing for definitions; providing for  
9 reporting of sanctions and criminal proceedings and for  
10 suspension; and further providing for civil penalties.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L.345,  
14 No.48), entitled "An act empowering the General Counsel or his  
15 designee to issue subpoenas for certain licensing board  
16 activities; providing for hearing examiners in the Bureau of  
17 Professional and Occupational Affairs; providing additional  
18 powers to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational  
19 Affairs; and further providing for civil penalties and license  
20 suspension," is amended by adding definitions to read:

21 Section 1. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
2 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
3 context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 \* \* \*

5 "Expunge" or "expungement." Removal of a disciplinary  
6 record, accomplished by:

7 (1) permanently sealing the affected record from public  
8 access;

9 (2) deeming the proceedings to which the affected record  
10 refers as not having occurred; and

11 (3) except with respect to any subsequent application  
12 for expungement, affording the affected party the right to  
13 represent that no record exists regarding the subject matter  
14 of the affected record.

15 \* \* \*

16 "Licensee." Any person holding a license, registration,  
17 certificate or permit with a licensing board or commission under  
18 the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in the  
19 Department of State.

20 \* \* \*

21 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:  
22 Section 2.1. Reporting of sanctions and criminal proceedings.

23 (a) Duty.--A licensee, as a condition of licensure,  
24 certification, registration or holding a permit, shall provide  
25 written notice of the following to the appropriate licensing  
26 board or commission within 30 days:

27 (1) A disciplinary action taken against the licensee by  
28 a licensing agency of another jurisdiction.

29 (2) A finding or verdict of guilt, an admission of  
30 guilt, a plea of nolo contendere, probation without verdict,

1 a disposition in lieu of trial or an Accelerated  
2 Rehabilitative Disposition of any felony or misdemeanor  
3 offense and any drug or alcohol related summary offense. <--

4 (b) Sanctions.--A licensing board or licensing commission  
5 may take disciplinary action against a licensee who violates  
6 this section.

7 Section 3.1. Suspension.

8 (a) Temporary suspension.--A licensing board or commission  
9 may temporarily suspend a license, certificate, registration or  
10 permit under circumstances as determined by the board or  
11 commission to be an immediate and clear danger to the public  
12 health and safety. The licensing board or commission shall issue  
13 an order to that effect without a hearing, but upon due notice,  
14 to the licensee concerned at the licensee's last known address,  
15 which shall include a written statement of all allegations  
16 against the licensee. After issuing the order, the licensing  
17 board or commission shall commence formal action to suspend,  
18 revoke or restrict the license, certificate, registration or  
19 permit of the person concerned as otherwise provided for by law.

20 All actions shall be taken promptly and without delay.

21 (b) Hearing.--Within 30 days following the issuance of an  
22 order of temporary suspension, the licensing board or commission  
23 shall conduct or cause to be conducted a preliminary hearing to  
24 determine whether there is a prima facie case supporting the  
25 suspension. The licensee whose license, certificate,  
26 registration or permit has been temporarily suspended may be  
27 present at the preliminary hearing and may be represented by  
28 counsel, cross-examine witnesses, inspect physical evidence,  
29 call witnesses, offer evidence and testimony and make a record  
30 of the proceedings. If it is determined that there is not a

1 prima facie case, the suspended license, certificate,  
2 registration or permit shall be immediately restored. The  
3 temporary suspension shall remain in effect until vacated by the  
4 licensing board or commission, but in no event longer than 180  
5 days.

6 (c) Restoration.--Restoration of a license, certificate,  
7 registration or permit shall be made as provided by law in the  
8 case of revocation or suspension of the license, certificate,  
9 registration or permit.

10 Section 3. Section 5(a), (b), (d.1), (d.3) and (d.4) of the  
11 act are amended to read:

12 Section 5. Civil penalties.

13 (a) Authorization.--

14 (1) The Commissioner of Professional and Occupational  
15 Affairs, after consultation with the licensing boards and  
16 commissions, shall have the power to adopt a schedule of  
17 civil penalties for operating without a current, registered,  
18 unsuspended and unrevoked license, registration, certificate  
19 or permit and for violating any provision of their respective  
20 acts or regulations relating to the conduct or operation of a  
21 business or facility licensed by such licensing boards and  
22 commissions. The schedule of penalties shall not be  
23 applicable to disciplinary matters under the jurisdiction of  
24 a licensing board or commission unless that licensing board  
25 or commission has approved the schedule. The schedule of  
26 penalties, guidelines for their imposition and procedures for  
27 appeal shall be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin,  
28 provided that the commissioner shall, within two years of  
29 such publication, promulgate a regulation setting forth the  
30 schedule of penalties, guidelines and procedures. Any such

1 penalty shall not exceed the sum of \$1,000 per violation.  
2 Duly authorized agents of the bureau shall have the power and  
3 authority to issue citations and impose penalties for any  
4 such violations. Any such penalty imposed may be appealed to  
5 a hearing examiner or the licensing board or commission  
6 pursuant to the regulations promulgated under section 3(b).  
7 If the appeal is initially to a hearing examiner, the  
8 relevant licensing board or commission shall render a  
9 decision on any exceptions to the decision of the hearing  
10 examiner or on any applications for review in accordance with  
11 section 3(d). All proceedings shall be conducted in  
12 accordance with the provisions of 2 Pa.C.S. (relating to  
13 administrative law and procedure).

14 (2) The Commissioner of Professional and Occupational  
15 Affairs shall expunge the disciplinary record of a licensee,  
16 registrant, certificate holder or permit holder, if the  
17 imposition of discipline was for a violation involving  
18 failure to complete continuing education requirements or  
19 practicing for six months or less on a lapsed license,  
20 registration, certificate or permit, subject to the  
21 following:

22 (i) The licensee, registrant, certificate holder or  
23 permit holder must make written application to the  
24 commissioner for expungement not earlier than four years  
25 from the final disposition of the disciplinary record.

26 (ii) The disciplinary record must be the only  
27 disciplinary record that the licensee, registrant,  
28 certificate holder or permit holder has with either the  
29 commissioner or a licensing board or commission under the  
30 commissioner's jurisdiction.

1           (iii) The licensee, registrant, certificate holder  
2 or permit holder must not be the subject of an active  
3 investigation related to professional or occupational  
4 conduct.

5           (iv) The licensee, registrant, certificate holder or  
6 permit holder must not be in a current disciplinary  
7 status, and any fees or fines assessed must be paid in  
8 full.

9           (v) The licensee, registrant, certificate holder or  
10 permit holder must not have had a disciplinary record  
11 previously expunged by the commissioner.

12           (vi) Disciplinary records involving imposition of  
13 discipline for violations other than those identified in  
14 this paragraph shall not be eligible for expungement.

15           (vii) The licensee, registrant, certificate holder  
16 or permit holder shall pay all costs associated with the  
17 expungement as established by the commissioner by  
18 regulation.

19           (3) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a  
20 licensing board or commission from using a previous  
21 discipline for any regulatory purpose or from releasing  
22 records of a previous discipline upon request from law  
23 enforcement or other governmental body as permitted by law.

24           (b) Additional powers.--In addition to the disciplinary  
25 powers and duties of the boards and commissions within the  
26 Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs under their  
27 respective practice acts, boards and commissions shall have the  
28 power, respectively:

29           (1) To impose discipline, including, but not limited to,  
30           a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation on any

1 licensee[, registrant, certificate holder, permit holder] or  
2 unlicensed person who violates a lawful disciplinary order of  
3 the board.

4 (2) To impose discipline, including, but not limited to,  
5 a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation on any  
6 licensee[, registrant, certificate holder, permit holder] or  
7 unlicensed person who aids and abets the unlicensed practice  
8 of a profession, occupation or business.

9 (3) To levy a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per  
10 violation on any corporation, partnership, institution,  
11 association or sole proprietorship which aids and abets any  
12 individual in the unlicensed practice of a profession. This  
13 penalty shall not, however, be levied against any person  
14 solely as a consequence of that person being a patient or  
15 client of the unlicensed individual.

16 (4) To levy a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per  
17 violation on any licensee[, registrant, certificate holder,  
18 permit holder] or unlicensed person who violates any  
19 provision of the applicable licensing act or board  
20 regulation.

21 (5) To assess against the respondent determined to be in  
22 violation of the disciplinary provisions administered by a  
23 licensing board or commission in a disciplinary proceeding  
24 pending before the board or commission for final  
25 determination, as part of the sanction, the costs of  
26 investigation underlying that disciplinary action. The cost  
27 of investigation shall not include those costs incurred by  
28 the board or commission after the filing of formal actions or  
29 disciplinary charges against the respondent.

30 (6) To collect all fees, costs, fines and penalties

1 assessed as a result of a disciplinary proceeding before a  
2 licensing board or commission.

3 (7) To deny, suspend or revoke a license, registration,  
4 certification or permit for failure to pay any penalty, fee,  
5 interest or cost assessed as a result of a disciplinary  
6 proceeding before a licensing board or commission.

7 \* \* \*

8 (d.1) Entry of judgment.--Within 60 months of the final  
9 disposition of a disciplinary case, if an unpaid civil penalty,  
10 fee, interest and cost of a licensee[, registrant, certificate  
11 holder or permit holder] total \$1,000 or more, the licensing  
12 board or commission, or its respective agent, may transmit a  
13 copy of the final disposition to the prothonotary of the court  
14 of common pleas in the county where the licensee[, registrant,  
15 certificate holder or permit holder,] or property of the  
16 licensee[, registrant, certificate holder or permit holder,]  
17 upon whom the penalty, fee, interest and cost are imposed is  
18 located. The prothonotary shall enter and docket the same  
19 without requiring payment of costs as a condition precedent to  
20 the entry thereof. The total of the penalty, fee, interest and  
21 cost shall be entered as a judgment upon the licensee[,  
22 registrant, certificate holder or permit holder] regardless of  
23 whether the amount has been ordered to be paid in installments.

24 \* \* \*

25 (d.3) Execution.--A writ of execution may directly issue  
26 upon the lien without the issuance and prosecution to judgment  
27 of a writ of scire facias, provided that a notice of the filing  
28 and the effect of the lien be provided to the licensee[,  
29 registrant, certificate holder or permit holder] not less than  
30 ten days before the execution on the lien. Notice may be sent by



1 registered mail to the last known address of the licensee[,  
2 registrant, certificate holder or permit holder].

3 (d.4) Exception to execution.--The lien shall have no effect  
4 upon any stock of goods, wares or merchandise regularly sold or  
5 leased in the ordinary course of business by the licensee[,  
6 registrant, certificate holder or permit holder] against whom  
7 the lien has been entered, unless and until a writ of execution  
8 has been issued and a levy made upon the stock of goods, wares  
9 and merchandise.

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.