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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 142 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, RAFFERTY, O'PAKE AND FERLO,  
JANUARY 30, 2009

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REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
JANUARY 30, 2009

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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 civil penalties; and  
9 making related repeals.

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

12 Section 1. Section 5 of the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L.345,  
13 No.48) entitled "An act empowering the General Counsel or his  
14 designee to issue subpoenas for certain licensing board  
15 activities; providing for hearing examiners in the Bureau of  
16 Professional and Occupational Affairs; providing additional  
17 powers to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational  
18 Affairs; and further providing for civil penalties and license  
19 suspension," is amended to read:

20 Section 5. Civil penalties.

21 (a) Authorization.--The Commissioner of Professional and

1 Occupational Affairs, after consultation with the licensing  
2 boards and commissions, shall have the power to adopt a schedule  
3 of civil penalties for operating without a current, registered,  
4 unsuspended and unrevoked license, registration, certificate or  
5 permit and for violating any provision of their respective acts  
6 or regulations relating to the conduct or operation of a  
7 business or facility licensed by such licensing boards and  
8 commissions. The schedule of penalties shall not be applicable  
9 to disciplinary matters under the jurisdiction of a licensing  
10 board or commission unless that licensing board or commission  
11 has approved the schedule. The schedule of penalties, guidelines  
12 for their imposition and procedures for appeal shall be  
13 published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, provided that the  
14 commissioner shall, within two years of such publication,  
15 promulgate a regulation setting forth the schedule of penalties,  
16 guidelines and procedures. Any such penalty shall not exceed the  
17 sum of \$1,000 per violation. Duly authorized agents of the  
18 bureau shall have the power and authority to issue citations and  
19 impose penalties for any such violations. Any such penalty  
20 imposed may be appealed to a hearing examiner or the licensing  
21 board or commission pursuant to the regulations promulgated  
22 under section 3(b). If the appeal is initially to a hearing  
23 examiner, the relevant licensing board or commission shall  
24 render a decision on any exceptions to the decision of the  
25 hearing examiner or on any applications for review in accordance  
26 with section 3(d). All proceedings shall be conducted in  
27 accordance with the provisions of 2 Pa.C.S. (relating to  
28 administrative law and procedure).

29 (b) Additional powers.--In addition to the disciplinary  
30 powers and duties of the boards and commissions within the

1 Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs under their  
2 respective practice acts, boards and commissions shall have the  
3 power, respectively:

4 (1) 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 [or], permit holder  
7 or unlicensed person who violates a lawful disciplinary order  
8 of the board.

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

14 (3) To levy a civil penalty of not more than [\$1,000]  
15 \$10,000 per violation on any corporation, partnership,  
16 institution, association or sole proprietorship which aids  
17 and abets any individual in the unlicensed practice of a  
18 profession. This penalty shall not, however, be levied  
19 against any person solely as a consequence of that person  
20 being a patient or client of the unlicensed individual.

21 (4) To levy a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per  
22 violation on any licensee, registrant, certificate holder,  
23 permit holder or unlicensed person who violates any provision  
24 of the applicable licensing act or board regulation.

25 (5) To assess against the respondent determined to be in  
26 violation of the disciplinary provisions administered by a  
27 licensing board or commission in a disciplinary proceeding  
28 pending before the board or commission for final  
29 determination, as part of the sanction, the costs of  
30 investigation underlying that disciplinary action. The cost

1 of investigation shall not include any associated legal fees  
2 or any cost of prosecution.

3 (c) Restrictions.--Any decisions rendered by a licensing  
4 board or commission on any exceptions to the decision of a  
5 hearing examiner or on any application for review in accordance  
6 with section 3(d) to impose a civil penalty pursuant to this  
7 section shall require the same number of votes required for the  
8 licensing board or commission to impose a civil penalty under  
9 any other act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
10 restrict the powers and duties under any other act of a  
11 licensing board or commission in disciplinary matters, except  
12 that a licensing board or commission may not impose a civil  
13 penalty under any other act for the same violation for which a  
14 civil penalty has been imposed pursuant to this section.

15 (d) Status of civil penalty.--Any civil penalty imposed  
16 pursuant to this section or imposed by any licensing board or  
17 commission under any other act shall be a judgment in favor of  
18 the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs upon the  
19 person or the property of the person upon whom the civil penalty  
20 is imposed. The Attorney General shall be responsible for  
21 enforcing such judgments in courts of competent jurisdiction in  
22 accordance with the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. (relating to  
23 judiciary and judicial procedure).

24 (e) Definition.--As used in this section, the term  
25 "unlicensed practice" means:

26 (1) practicing a profession or occupation or operating a  
27 business for which a license, registration, certificate or  
28 permit is required without holding a valid, unexpired,  
29 unrevoked or unsuspended authority to do so; or

30 (2) representing to the public or any person, through

1 offerings, advertisements or the use of a title, that the  
2 individual is qualified to practice a profession, occupation  
3 or business for which a license, registration, certificate or  
4 permit is required without holding a valid, unexpired,  
5 unrevoked or unsuspended authority to do so.

6 Section 2. The following provisions are repealed insofar as  
7 they are inconsistent with the amendment of section 5 of the  
8 act:

9 (1) Section 15(b.3) of the act of June 19, 1931 (P.L.  
10 589, No.202), referred to as the Barbers' License Law.

11 (2) Section 10.1 of the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.  
12 76), known as The Dental Law.

13 (3) Section 20(c.2) of the act of May 3, 1933 (P.L.242,  
14 No.86), referred to as the Cosmetology Law.

15 (4) Section 11(b) of the act of May 23, 1945 (P.L.913,  
16 No.367), known as the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist  
17 Registration Law.

18 (5) Section 16(c) of the act of May 26, 1947 (P.L.318,  
19 No.140), known as the CPA Law.

20 (6) Section 13(b) of the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317,  
21 No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law.

22 (7) Section 17(b) of the act of January 14, 1952 (1951  
23 P.L.1898, No.522), known as the Funeral Director Law.

24 (8) Section 13(b) of the act of March 2, 1956 (1955 P.L.  
25 1206, No.375), known as the Podiatry Practice Act.

26 (9) Section 15(b) of the act of March 2, 1956 (1955 P.L.  
27 1211, No.376), known as the Practical Nurse Law.

28 (10) Section 8(15.1) of the act of September 27, 1961  
29 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy Act.

30 (11) Section 11(b) of the act of January 24, 1966 (1965

1 P.L.1527, No.535), known as the Landscape Architects'  
2 Registration Law.

3 (12) Section 11(b) of the act of June 22, 1970 (P.L.378,  
4 No.122), known as the Nursing Home Administrators License  
5 Act.

6 (13) Section 11(b) of the act of March 23, 1972 (P.L.  
7 136, No.52), known as the Professional Psychologists Practice  
8 Act.

9 (14) Section 28(c) of the act of December 27, 1974 (P.L.  
10 995, No.326), known as the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

11 (15) Section 12(c) of the act of October 10, 1975 (P.L.  
12 383, No.110), known as the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

13 (16) Section 305 of the act of February 19, 1980 (P.L.  
14 15, No.9), known as the Real Estate Licensing and  
15 Registration Act.

16 (17) Section 8(c) of the act of June 6, 1980 (P.L.197,  
17 No.57), known as the Optometric Practice and Licensure Act.

18 (18) Section 20(d) of the act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.  
19 1227, No.281), known as the Architects Licensure Law.

20 (19) Section 28(c) of the act of December 22, 1983 (P.L.  
21 306, No.84), known as the Board of Vehicles Act.

22 (20) Section 29(b) of the act of December 22, 1983 (P.L.  
23 327, No.85), known as the Auctioneer and Auction Licensing  
24 Act.

25 (21) Section 703 of the act of December 16, 1986 (P.L.  
26 1646, No.188), known as the Chiropractic Practice Act.

27 (22) Section 17(b) of the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220,  
28 No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family  
29 Therapists and Professional Counselors Act.

30 (23) Section 15(b) of the act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404,

1 No.98), known as the Real Estate Appraisers Certification  
2 Act.

3 (24) Section 908 of the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154,  
4 No.13), known as the Medical Care Availability and Reduction  
5 of Error (Mcare) Act.

6 Section 3. This act shall apply to violations which take  
7 place on or after the effective date of this section.

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