

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-ninth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2009

# HOUSE BILL 2160

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 32-900, 32-922.02, 32-924 AND 32-925, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-900, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 32-900. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Board" means the state board of chiropractic examiners.

7 2. "Certification" means that a doctor of chiropractic has been  
8 certified by the board in a specialty of chiropractic as provided by law.

9 3. "Chiropractic assistant" means an unlicensed person who has  
10 completed an educational training program approved by the board, who assists  
11 in basic health care duties in the practice of chiropractic under the  
12 supervision of a doctor of chiropractic and who performs delegated duties  
13 commensurate with the chiropractic assistant's education and training but who  
14 does not evaluate, interpret, design or modify established treatment programs  
15 of chiropractic care or violate any statute.

16 4. "Doctor of chiropractic" means a natural person who holds a license  
17 to practice chiropractic pursuant to this chapter.

18 5. "License" means a license to practice chiropractic.

19 6. "PHYSICAL MEDICINE MODALITIES" MEANS ANY PHYSICAL AGENT APPLIED TO  
20 PRODUCE THERAPEUTIC CHANGE TO BIOLOGIC TISSUES INCLUDING THERMAL, ACOUSTIC,  
21 NONINVASIVE LIGHT, MECHANICAL OR ELECTRIC ENERGY, HOT OR COLD PACKS,  
22 ULTRASOUND, GALVANISM, MICROWAVE, DIATHERMY AND ELECTRICAL STIMULATION.

23 7. "THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES" MEANS THE APPLICATION OF CLINICAL SKILLS  
24 AND SERVICES, INCLUDING THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE, THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES, MANUAL  
25 THERAPY TECHNIQUES, MASSAGE AND STRUCTURAL SUPPORTS, TO IMPROVE A PATIENT'S  
26 NEUROMUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITION.

27 Sec. 2. Section 32-922.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
28 read:

29 32-922.02. Specialties; certification; fees

30 A. In order to practice a chiropractic specialty a licensee shall be  
31 certified in that specialty by the board.

32 B. An applicant who wishes to be certified to perform acupuncture  
33 shall submit the following to the board:

34 1. Documentation of successful completion of a minimum of one hundred  
35 hours of study in acupuncture at an accredited chiropractic college or  
36 postgraduate study with an instructor on the active or postgraduate staff of  
37 an accredited chiropractic college.

38 2. A complete application as prescribed by the board.

39 3. Documentation of having passed a board approved acupuncture  
40 examination.

41 C. An applicant who wishes to be certified to perform **physiotherapy**  
42 **PHYSICAL MEDICINE MODALITIES AND THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES** shall submit the  
43 following to the board:



- 1           12. Acting or assuming to act as a member of the board if this is not  
2 true.
- 3           13. Advertising in a false, deceptive or misleading manner.
- 4           14. ~~Refusal, revocation or suspension of~~ HAVING HAD a license REFUSED,  
5 REVOKED OR SUSPENDED by any other state or country, unless it can be shown  
6 that the action was not taken for reasons that relate to the ability to  
7 safely and skillfully practice chiropractic or to any act of unprofessional  
8 conduct.
- 9           15. Any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards in  
10 chiropractic or any conduct or practice that constitutes a danger to the  
11 health, welfare or safety of the patient or the public or any conduct,  
12 practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and  
13 skillfully practice chiropractic.
- 14           16. Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or  
15 assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any of the  
16 provisions of this chapter or any board order.
- 17           17. Failing to sign the physician's name, wherever required, in any  
18 capacity as "chiropractic doctor", "chiropractic physician" or "doctor of  
19 chiropractic" or failing to use and affix the initials "D.C." after the  
20 physician's name.
- 21           18. Failing to place or cause to be placed the word or words  
22 "chiropractic", "chiropractor", "chiropractic doctor" or "chiropractic  
23 physician" in any sign or advertising media.
- 24           19. Using ~~physiotherapy~~ PHYSICAL MEDICINE MODALITIES AND THERAPEUTIC  
25 PROCEDURES without passing an examination in that subject and without being  
26 certified in that specialty by the board.
- 27           20. Using acupuncture without passing an examination in that subject  
28 and without being certified in that specialty by the board.
- 29           21. Engaging in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with a  
30 patient in the course of treatment.
- 31           22. Billing or otherwise charging a patient or third party payor for  
32 services, appliances, tests, equipment, an x-ray examination or other  
33 procedures not actually provided.
- 34           23. Intentionally misrepresenting to or omitting a material fact from  
35 the patient or third party payor concerning charges, services, appliances,  
36 tests, equipment, an x-ray examination or other procedures offered or  
37 provided.
- 38           24. Advertising chiropractic services, appliances, tests, equipment,  
39 x-ray examinations or other procedures for a specified price without also  
40 specifying the services, procedures or items included in the advertised  
41 price.
- 42           25. Advertising chiropractic services, appliances, tests, equipment,  
43 x-ray examinations or other procedures as free without also disclosing what  
44 services or items are included in the advertised service or item.

1           26. Billing or charging a patient or third party payor a higher price  
2 than the advertised price in effect at the time the services, appliances,  
3 tests, equipment, x-ray examinations or other procedures were provided.

4           27. Advertising a specialty or procedure that requires a separate  
5 examination or certificate of specialty, unless the licensee has satisfied  
6 the applicable requirements of this chapter.

7           28. Solicitation by the licensee or by the licensee's compensated agent  
8 of any person who is not previously known by the licensee or the licensee's  
9 agent, and who at the time of the solicitation is vulnerable to undue  
10 influence, including any person known to have experienced any of the  
11 following within the last fifteen days:

12           (a) Involvement in a motor vehicle accident.

13           (b) Involvement in a work-related accident.

14           (c) Injury by, or as the result of actions of, another person.

15           B. The board on its own motion or on receipt of a complaint may  
16 investigate any information that appears to show that a doctor of  
17 chiropractic is or may be in violation of this chapter or board rules or is  
18 or may be mentally or physically unable to safely engage in the practice of  
19 chiropractic. The board shall notify the licensee as to the content of the  
20 complaint as soon as is reasonable. Any person who reports or provides  
21 information to the board in good faith is not subject to civil damages as a  
22 result of that action.

23           C. The board may require a licensee under investigation pursuant to  
24 this section to be interviewed by the board or its representatives. The  
25 board may require a licensee who is under investigation pursuant to this  
26 section to undergo, at the licensee's expense, any combination of medical,  
27 physical or mental examinations that the board finds necessary to determine  
28 the licensee's competence.

29           D. If the board finds based on the information it receives under  
30 subsections B and C that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively  
31 requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its  
32 order, the board may order a summary suspension of a license pending  
33 proceedings for revocation or other action. If the board takes this action  
34 it shall also serve the licensee with a written notice that states the  
35 charges and that the licensee is entitled to a formal hearing within sixty  
36 days.

37           E. If, after completing its investigation, the board finds that the  
38 information provided pursuant to this section is not of sufficient  
39 seriousness to merit disciplinary action against the licensee, it may take  
40 any of the following actions:

41           1. Dismiss the complaint if in the board's opinion the information is  
42 without merit or does not warrant sanction of the licensee.

43           2. Issue an advisory letter. An advisory letter is a nondisciplinary  
44 action and is a public document.

45           3. Issue a nondisciplinary order requiring the licensee to complete a  
46 prescribed number of hours of continuing education in an area or areas

1 prescribed by the board to provide the licensee with the necessary  
2 understanding of current developments, skills, procedures or treatment.  
3 Failure to complete a nondisciplinary order requiring continuing education is  
4 a violation of subsection A, paragraph 16.

5 F. The board may request a formal interview with the licensee  
6 concerned. At a formal interview the board may receive and consider  
7 pertinent documents and sworn statements of persons who may be called as  
8 witnesses in a formal hearing. Legal counsel may be present and participate  
9 in the formal interview. If the licensee refuses the request or if the  
10 licensee accepts the request and the results of the interview indicate  
11 suspension or revocation of the license may be in order, the board shall  
12 issue a complaint and order that a hearing be held pursuant to title 41,  
13 chapter 6, article 10. If, after the formal interview, the board finds that  
14 the information provided pursuant to this section is true but is not of  
15 sufficient seriousness to merit suspension or revocation of the license, it  
16 may take any of the following actions:

17 1. Dismiss the complaint if in the board's opinion the information is  
18 without merit or does not warrant sanction of the licensee.

19 2. Issue an advisory letter. An advisory letter is a nondisciplinary  
20 action and is a public document.

21 3. Issue an order to cease and desist.

22 4. Issue a letter of concern.

23 5. Issue an order of censure. An order of censure is an official  
24 action against the licensee and may include a requirement for restitution of  
25 fees to a patient resulting from a violation of this chapter or board rules.

26 6. Fix a period and terms of probation best adapted to protect the  
27 public health and safety and to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. Any  
28 costs incidental to the terms of probation are at the licensee's own expense.  
29 Probation may include restrictions on the licensee's license to practice  
30 chiropractic.

31 7. Impose a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for  
32 each violation of this chapter.

33 8. Refuse to renew a license.

34 9. Issue a disciplinary or nondisciplinary order requiring the  
35 licensee to complete a prescribed number of hours of continuing education in  
36 an area or areas prescribed by the board to provide the licensee with the  
37 necessary understanding of current developments, skills, procedures or  
38 treatment.

39 G. If the board believes the charge is of such magnitude as to warrant  
40 suspension or revocation of the license, the board shall immediately initiate  
41 formal revocation or suspension proceedings pursuant to title 41, chapter 6,  
42 article 10. The board shall notify a licensee of a complaint and hearing by  
43 certified mail addressed to the licensee's last known address on record in  
44 the board's files. The notice of a complaint and hearing is effective on the  
45 date of its deposit in the mail. The board shall hold a formal hearing  
46 within one hundred eighty days after that date.

1 H. If the licensee wishes to be present at the formal hearing in  
2 person or by representation, or both, the licensee shall file with the board  
3 an answer to the charges in the complaint. The answer shall be in writing,  
4 verified under oath and filed within twenty days after service of the  
5 complaint.

6 I. Any licensee who, after a hearing, is found to be in violation of  
7 this chapter or board rules or is found to be mentally or physically unable  
8 to safely engage in the practice of chiropractic is subject to any  
9 combination of those disciplinary actions identified in subsection F or  
10 suspension or revocation of the license. In addition, the board may order  
11 the licensee to pay restitution or all costs incurred in the course of the  
12 investigation and formal hearing in the matter, or both.

13 J. The board shall report allegations of evidence of criminal  
14 wrongdoing to the appropriate criminal justice agency.

15 K. The board may accept the surrender of an active license from a  
16 licensee who admits in writing to having violated this chapter or board  
17 rules.

18 L. For the purposes of this section, "solicitation" includes contact  
19 in person, by telephone, telegraph or telefacsimile or by other communication  
20 directed to a specific recipient and includes any written form of  
21 communication directed to a specific recipient.

22 Sec. 4. Section 32-925, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

23 32-925. Practice of chiropractic; limitations

24 A. A doctor of chiropractic is a portal of entry health care provider  
25 who engages in the practice of health care that includes:

26 1. The diagnosis and correction of subluxations, functional vertebral  
27 or articular dysarthrosis or neuromuscular skeletal disorders for the  
28 restoration and maintenance of health.

29 2. Physical and clinical examinations, diagnostic x-rays and clinical  
30 laboratory procedures that are limited to urine collection, finger pricks or  
31 venipuncture in order to determine the propriety of a regimen of chiropractic  
32 care or to form a basis for referral of patients to other licensed health  
33 care professionals, or both.

34 3. Treatment by:

35 (a) PHYSICAL MEDICINE MODALITIES, THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES AND  
36 adjustment of the spine or bodily articulations. ~~and those~~

37 (b) Procedures ~~preparatory and complementary to the adjustment~~  
38 ~~including physiotherapy~~ related to the correction of subluxations ~~or~~ AND  
39 NEUROMUSCULAR SKELETAL DISORDERS.

40 (c) PRESCRIPTION OF orthopedic supports. ~~of the spine and~~

41 (d) Acupuncture.

42 B. A doctor of chiropractic licensed under this chapter shall not  
43 prescribe or administer medicine or drugs, perform surgery or practice  
44 obstetrics.