



House Bill 4698

Sponsor: Rep. Michael J. Bennane

Committee: Public Health

Complete to 5-7-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4698 AS INTRODUCED 4-16-91

The Public Health Code licenses and registers health professionals. Within health professions, the code also recognizes "health profession specialty fields" and "health profession subfields." Currently, the only health profession specialty fields recognized in the code are six dental specialties (prosthodontics, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, and periodontics) and three nursing specialties (nurse midwifery, nurse anesthetists, and nurse practitioners). The code allow licensed dentists and licensed nurses to obtain specialty certification in each of these specialties, provided, of course, that the licensee meets the requirements for advanced training beyond that required for general licensure.

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to delete specialty certification and instead add a health profession specialty field license. This would be a special kind of a license, which would not be included under the code's general definition of license. A specialty license would not restrict practice but would restrict use of a designated title. (The bill specifically would not prohibit licensed dentists who did not hold health profession specialty field licenses in one of the six dental specialties from performing any of these specialty services.) But the specialty field license would authorize a licensee (at this time, in dentistry or in nursing) who had met qualifications established by his or her board (effectively, the Board of Dentistry or the Board of Nursing) for registration in a health profession specialty field (that is, in one of the six dental specialty fields or in one of the three nursing specialty fields) to use a designated title (eg. licensed prosthodontist, or licensed nurse practitioner).

Licensed health professionals (such as dentists and nurses) who held a specialty certification on the effective date of the bill would be considered to hold health profession specialty field licenses, and they could renew these licenses on the expiration date of their specialty certification.

The bill would make other changes in the code necessary to effect this change from specialty certification to specialty licensing. For example, it would redefine "registration," which now includes specialty certification, to include instead health profession specialty field licenses and would delete the definition of "specialty certification." It also would say that for purposes of administering Part 5 of the general rules of the Board of Dentistry (R 338.11501 to R 338.11527), references to specialty certification would be references to health profession specialty field licenses.

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