



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 607

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Gonzales and Wachtmann, Blair, Johnson

BILL SUMMARY

- Generally requires a health care professional, when providing direct patient care, to wear an identification card, badge, or similar device that includes the professional's photograph, name, license held, and license expiration date.
- Provides that identification does not have to be worn if a safety or health risk to the professional or a patient would be created by wearing it.
- Requires all advertisements for health care services that name a health care professional who provides direct patient care to identify the type of license held by the professional.
- Authorizes state licensing boards to take professional disciplinary action for failure to comply with the bill's requirements.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Health care professional identification card or badge

The bill requires a health care professional, at all times when providing direct patient care, to wear an identification card, badge, or similar device that includes all of the following:

- (1) A recent photograph of the professional;
- (2) The professional's name;
- (3) The type of license held by the professional;
- (4) The expiration date of the professional's license.

The identification card, badge, or device must be of sufficient size and be worn in a conspicuous place so as to be visible to patients and other individuals.¹

Exceptions

The bill specifies that a health care professional is not required to wear an identification card, badge, or device under either of the following circumstances: (1) a safety or health risk to the professional or a patient would be created as a result of the professional wearing the card, badge, or device or (2) the professional practices at a location where direct patient care is not provided.²

Advertising for health care services

The bill requires all advertisements for health care services that name a health care professional who provides direct patient care to identify the type of license held by the professional.³ The bill defines "advertisement" as any communication or statement, whether printed, electronic, or oral, that names a health care professional in connection with the professional's practice, profession, or institution in which the professional is employed, volunteers, or otherwise provides health care services. "Advertisement" includes circulars, signs, newspaper or magazine publications, business cards, letterhead, patient brochures, and other oral or written communications.⁴

Exceptions

The bill specifies that the advertising requirement does not apply if the health care professional practices at a location where direct patient care is not provided.⁵ It also specifies that it does not authorize a physician assistant to advertise.⁶ Current law governing physician assistants generally prohibits a physician assistant from advertising to provide services as a physician assistant.⁷

¹ R.C. 4745.04(B)(1) and (2).

² R.C. 4745.04(B)(3) and (D).

³ R.C. 4745.04(C)(1).

⁴ R.C. 4745.04(A)(1).

⁵ R.C. 4745.04(D).

⁶ R.C. 4745.04(C)(2).

⁷ R.C. 4730.02(H) (not in the bill).

Disciplinary action against health care professionals

The bill authorizes each state health professional licensing board that regulates the health care professional's respective profession to take disciplinary action against the professional for failure to comply with the bill's requirements for (1) wearing the identification card, badge, or device and (2) advertising for health care services.⁸

Health care professionals subject to the bill

The bill specifies, by definition, the health care professionals who must comply with its identification and advertising requirements. "Health care professional" is defined as an individual licensed to provide medical, dental, or other health-related diagnosis, care, or treatment under the laws governing all of the following state professional licensing boards: (1) State Dental Board, (2) Board of Nursing, (3) State Board of Optometry, (4) State Board of Pharmacy, (5) State Medical Board, (6) State Board of Psychology, (7) State Chiropractic Board, (8) Board of Speech-language Pathology and Audiology, (9) Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, (10) Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, (11) Chemical Dependency Professionals Board, (12) Ohio Board of Dietetics, (13) Ohio Respiratory Care Board, (14) State Board of Emergency Medical Services, and (15) State Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics.⁹

The State Medical Board administers the laws governing several health care professionals, including physicians, podiatrists, massage therapists, cosmetic therapists, physician assistants, anesthesiologist assistants, acupuncturists, radiologist assistants, and genetic counselors.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	11-21-12

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⁸ R.C. 4715.30, 4723.28, 4725.19, 4725.53, 4729.16, 4730.25, 4731.22, 4732.17, 4734.31, 4753.10, 4755.11, 4755.47, 4755.64, 4757.36, 4758.30, 4759.07, 4760.13, 4761.09, 4762.13, 4774.13, 4778.14, and 4779.28.

⁹ R.C. 4745.04(A)(2).