

CHAPTER 2012-64

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 653

An act relating to health care fraud; amending s. 456.0635, F.S.; revising the grounds under which the Department of Health or corresponding board is required to refuse to admit a candidate to an examination and refuse to issue or renew a license, certificate, or registration of a health care practitioner; providing an exception; amending s. 456.036, F.S.; providing that all persons who were denied renewal of licensure, certification, or registration under s. 456.0635(3), F.S., may regain licensure, certification, or registration only by completing the application process for initial licensure; providing an exception; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.0635 Health care Medicaid fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.—

(1) Health care Medicaid fraud in the practice of a health care profession is prohibited.

(2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue ~~or renew~~ a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant, ~~has been:~~

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ~~pleas ended; more than 15 years prior to the date of the application;~~

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

(c)(b) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

(d)(e) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state or Federal Government, from any other state Medicaid program or the federal Medicare program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program or the federal Medicare program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before prior to the date of the application; or-

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities.

This subsection does not apply to candidates or applicants for initial licensure or certification who were enrolled in an educational or training program on or before July 1, 2009, which was recognized by a board or, if there is no board, recognized by the department, and who applied for licensure after July 1, 2012.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities.

(4)(3) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care Medicaid fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care Medicaid fraud occurred.

(5)(4) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's candidate's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care Medicaid fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

Section 2. Present subsections (14) and (15) of section 456.036, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (15) and (16), respectively, and a new subsection (14) is added to that section, to read:

456.036 Licenses; active and inactive status; delinquency.—

(14) A person who has been denied renewal of licensure, certification, or registration under s. 456.0635(3) may regain licensure, certification, or registration only by meeting the qualifications and completing the application process for initial licensure as defined by the board, or the department if there is no board. However, a person who was denied renewal of licensure, certification, or registration under s. 24 of chapter 2009-223, Laws of Florida, between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2012, is not required to retake and pass examinations applicable for initial licensure, certification, or registration.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2012.