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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Handy, Donovan, Speakman, Kislak, Cassar,
Knight, Fogarty, McEntee, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: February 12, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-3.1-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-3.1 entitled "Public
2 Accountancy" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-3.1-12. Revocation or suspension of certificate, authority, or permit.**

4 (a) After notice and a hearing as provided in § 5-3.1-14, the board may:

5 (1) Suspend or revoke any certificate issued under § 5-3.1-5, or any predecessor provision,
6 and any authority as a public accountant issued under the prior laws of this state;

7 (2) Revoke or suspend any permit issued under § 5-3.1-7, § 5-3.1-8, § 5-3.1-9, or their
8 predecessor provisions; and

9 (3) Reprimand or censure in writing; limit the scope of practice; impose an administrative
10 fine upon, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000); or place on probation, all with or without
11 terms, conditions, or limitations, a licensee, for any of the causes specified in subsection (b).

12 (b) The board may take action specified in subsection (a) for any one or more of the
13 following causes:

14 (1) Fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate or permit under this chapter;

15 (2) Dishonesty, fraud, or gross negligence in the practice of public accounting or in the
16 filing, or failing to file, the licensee's own income tax returns;

17 (3) Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter;

18 (4) Violation of any rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, any rules of
19 professional conduct promulgated by the board under the authority granted by this chapter;

1 (5) Conviction of, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, a crime or an act constituting a
2 crime of forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, bribery, larceny, extortion,
3 conspiracy to defraud, misappropriation of funds, tax evasion, or any other similar offense ~~or~~
4 ~~offenses involving moral turpitude~~, in a court of competent jurisdiction of this or any other state or
5 in federal court;

6 (6) Cancellation, revocation, or suspension of, or refusal to renew, the licensee's certificate
7 or permit from another state by the other state for any cause other than failure to pay a fee or to
8 meet the requirements of continuing education in that other state;

9 (7) Suspension or revocation of the right to practice public accounting before any state or
10 federal agency;

11 (8) As to accountants licensed by foreign countries, cancellation, revocation, suspension,
12 or refusal to renew the person's certificate, license, or degree evidencing his or her qualification to
13 practice public accounting by the foreign country issuing the certificate, license, or degree, the
14 certificate, license, or degree having qualified the accountant for issuance of an annual limited
15 permit to practice under § 5-3.1-8;

16 (9) Failure to furnish the board, or any persons acting on behalf of the board, any
17 information that is legally requested by the board;

18 (10) Any conduct reflecting adversely upon the licensee's fitness to engage in the practice
19 of public accountancy; and

20 (11) Any other conduct discreditable to the public accounting profession.

21 SECTION 2. Section 5-5.1-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-5.1 entitled "Private
22 Security Guard Businesses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 **5-5.1-18. Registration.**

24 (a) Except as provided in this chapter, no person shall perform the functions and duties of
25 an employee of a business required to be licensed under this chapter in this state without first having
26 been registered or licensed. The attorney general shall keep and make available for public
27 inspection a list of all persons who have been registered or licensed and the name of the company
28 employing the person at the time of registration or licensure.

29 (b) No holder of any unexpired license issued pursuant to this chapter shall knowingly
30 employ any person who has been convicted of a felony in connection with his or her or its business
31 in any capacity. Should the holder of an unexpired license falsely state or represent that a person is
32 or has been in his or her employ, that false statement or misrepresentation is sufficient cause for
33 the revocation of the license.

34 (c) No person shall be employed by any holder of a license until he or she has executed

1 and furnished to the license holder a verified statement, to be known as "employee's registration
2 statement," stating:

3 (1) His or her full name, age, residence address, and place and date of birth;

4 (2) The country of which he or she is a citizen;

5 (3) The business or occupation engaged in for the five (5) years immediately preceding the
6 date of the filing of the statement, stating the place or places where the business or occupation was
7 engaged in, and the name or names of any employers;

8 (4) That he or she has not been convicted of a felony ~~or of any offense involving moral~~
9 ~~turpitude~~; and

10 (5) Any further information that the attorney general may by rule require to show the good
11 character, competency, and integrity of the person executing the statement.

12 (d) All holders of a license shall be allowed to obtain a criminal background check on any
13 employee or prospective employee from the division of criminal identification for a fee determined
14 by the department of the attorney general.

15 (e) If any holder of a license files with the attorney general the "employee's statement" of
16 a person other than the person employed, he or she is guilty of a felony.

17 SECTION 3. Section 5-8-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-8 entitled "Engineers" is
18 hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **5-8-18. Suspension and revocation of certificates -- Complaints -- Hearings.**

20 (a) After notice and a hearing as provided in this section, the director may in his or her
21 discretion or upon recommendation of the board: (1) Suspend, revoke, or take other permitted
22 action with respect to any certificate of registration; (2) Revoke, suspend, or take other permitted
23 action with respect to any certificate of authorization; (3) Publicly censure, or reprimand or censure
24 in writing; (4) Limit the scope of practice of; (5) Impose an administrative fine upon, not to exceed
25 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation; (6) Place on probation; and/or (7) For good cause
26 shown order a reimbursement of the department for all fees, expenses, costs, and attorney's fees in
27 connection with the proceedings, which amounts shall be deposited as general revenues; all with
28 or without terms, conditions, or limitations, holders of a certificate of registration or a certificate of
29 authorization, referred to as licensee(s), for any one or more of the causes set out in subsection (b)
30 of this section.

31 (b) The director may take actions specified in subsection (a) of this section for any of the
32 following causes:

33 (1) Bribery, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining a certificate of registration or
34 certificate of authorization;

- 1 (2) Practicing engineering in another state or country or jurisdiction in violation of the laws
2 of that state or country or jurisdiction;
- 3 (3) Practicing engineering in this state in violation of the standards of professional conduct
4 established by the board and approved by the director;
- 5 (4) Fraud, deceit, recklessness, gross negligence, misconduct, or incompetence in the
6 practice of engineering;
- 7 (5) Use of an engineer's stamp in violation of § 5-8-14;
- 8 (6) Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or chapter 84 of this title;
- 9 (7) Suspension or revocation of the right to practice engineering before any state or before
10 any other country or jurisdiction;
- 11 (8) Conviction of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to any felony or to any crime of, or
12 an act constituting a crime of, forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses,
13 bribery, larceny, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or any other similar offense ~~or offenses involving~~
14 ~~moral turpitude~~, in a court of competent jurisdiction of this state or any other state or of the federal
15 government;
- 16 (9) Failure to furnish to the department and/or board or any person acting on behalf of the
17 department and/or board in a reasonable time any information that may be legally requested by the
18 department and/or board;
- 19 (10) In conjunction with any violation of subsections (b)(1) -- (b)(9), any conduct reflecting
20 adversely upon the licensee's fitness to engage in the practice of engineering; and
- 21 (11) In conjunction with any violation of subsections (b)(1) -- (b)(9), any other conduct
22 discreditable to the engineering profession.
- 23 (c) Any person may file complaints of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetence, or
24 misconduct against any registrant. Those charges shall be in writing, sworn to by the person or
25 persons making them, and filed with the board.
- 26 (d) All charges, unless dismissed by the director as unfounded or trivial, shall be heard by
27 the director within six (6) months after the date on which they have been properly filed or within
28 six (6) months following resolution of similar charges that have been brought against a registrant
29 who is before another regulatory body.
- 30 (e) The time and place for the hearing pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be
31 fixed by the department, and a copy of charges, together with a notice of the time and place of
32 hearing, shall be personally served on or mailed to the last known address of the registrant at least
33 thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the hearing. At any hearing, the accused registrant shall
34 have the right to appear personally and/or by counsel; to cross-examine witnesses appearing against

1 him or her; and to produce evidence and witnesses in his or her own defense. The board may
2 participate in formal proceedings through representation by the department's legal staff acting as
3 the prosecuting agent before the director.

4 (f) If, after the hearing pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, the evidence is in favor of
5 sustaining the charges, the director may in his or her discretion suspend, revoke, or take other
6 permitted action with respect to the certificate of registration or certificate of authorization, or
7 publicly censure the licensee, or take any other action and/or order any other penalty permitted by
8 this section. The department, for reasons it deems sufficient, may reissue a certificate of registration
9 or certificate of authorization or renewal to any person or firm whose certificate has been revoked.

10 (g) The board or the department may on its own motion investigate the conduct of an
11 applicant, engineer, sole proprietorship, partnership, limited-liability partnership, corporation,
12 limited-liability company, or individual.

13 (h) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the board from entering into
14 consent agreements or informal resolutions with any party under investigation for violations under
15 this chapter and/or chapter 84 of this title.

16 SECTION 4. Section 5-8.1-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-8.1 entitled "Land
17 Surveyors" is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 **5-8.1-15. Board of registration for professional land surveyors -- Disciplinary actions.**

19 (a) Revocation, suspension, and censure. After notice and a hearing as provided in this
20 section, the director may in his or her discretion or upon recommendation of the board: (1) Suspend,
21 revoke, or take other permitted action with respect to any certificate of registration; (2) Revoke,
22 suspend, or take other permitted action with respect to any certificate of authorization; (3) Publicly
23 censure, or reprimand or censure in writing; (4) Limit the scope of practice of; (5) Impose an
24 administrative fine, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation; (6) Place on
25 probation; and/or (7) For good cause shown, order a reimbursement of the department for all fees,
26 expenses, costs, and attorney's fees in connection with the proceedings, which amounts shall be
27 deposited as general revenues; all with or without terms, conditions, or limitations, holders of a
28 certificate of registration or a certificate of authorization, hereafter referred to as registrant(s), for
29 any one or more of the causes set out in subsection (b).

30 (b) Grounds. The director may take actions specified in subsection (a) for any of the
31 following causes:

32 (1) Bribery, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining a certificate of registration or
33 certificate of authorization;

34 (2) Practicing land surveying in another state or country or jurisdiction in violation of the

1 laws of that state, country, or jurisdiction;

2 (3) Practicing land surveying in this state in violation of the standards of professional
3 conduct established by the board and approved by the director;

4 (4) Fraud, deceit, recklessness, gross negligence, misconduct, or incompetence in the
5 practice of land surveying;

6 (5) Use of a land surveyor's stamp in violation of § 5-8.1-12;

7 (6) Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or chapter 84 of this title;

8 (7) Suspension or revocation of the right to practice land surveying before any state or
9 before any other country or jurisdiction;

10 (8) Conviction of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to any felony or to any crime of, or
11 an act constituting a crime of, forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses,
12 bribery, larceny, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or any other similar offense ~~or offenses involving~~
13 ~~moral turpitude~~, in a court of competent jurisdiction of this state or any other state or of the federal
14 government;

15 (9) Failure to furnish to the department and/or board, or any person acting on behalf thereof,
16 in a reasonable time such information as may be legally requested by the department and/or board;

17 (10) In conjunction with any violation of subsections (b)(1) -- (b)(9), any conduct reflecting
18 adversely upon the registrant's fitness to engage in the practice of land surveying; and

19 (11) In conjunction with any violation of subsections (b)(1) -- (b)(9), any other conduct
20 discreditable to the land surveying profession.

21 (c) Procedures.

22 (1) Any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetence, or
23 misconduct against any applicant or registrant. In addition, the department or board may, on its
24 own motion, investigate the conduct of an applicant or registrant of the board, and may in
25 appropriate cases file a written statement of charges with the secretary of the board. The charges
26 shall be in writing and shall be sworn to by the person or persons making them and shall be filed
27 with the board of land surveyors. All charges, unless dismissed by the director as unfounded or
28 trivial, shall be heard by the director within three (3) months after the date on which they were
29 referred.

30 (2) The time and place for the hearing shall be fixed by the department, and a copy of the
31 charges, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing, shall be personally served on
32 or mailed to the last known address of the registrant at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed
33 for the hearing. At any hearing, the accused registrant or applicant has the right to appear personally
34 and/or by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses appearing against him or her, and to produce

1 evidence and witnesses in his or her defense.

2 (3) If, after the hearing, the charges are sustained, the director, on his or her own motion or
3 upon recommendation of the board of land surveyors, may in his or her discretion suspend, revoke,
4 or take other permitted action with respect to the certificate of registration or certificate of
5 authorization or publicly censure the registrant, or take any other action and/or order any other
6 penalty permitted by this section.

7 (4) The director may, at his or her discretion, reissue a certificate of registration or
8 certificate of authorization or renewal to any person or firm denied registration under this section
9 or upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of reform and/or redress.

10 (5) The board may participate in hearings before the director through representation by the
11 department's legal staff acting as the prosecuting agent before the director.

12 (d) Legal counsel. The department shall make its legal staff available to act as legal advisor
13 to the board and to render any legal assistance that is necessary in carrying out the provisions of
14 this chapter. The director may employ other counsel and necessary assistance to aid in the
15 enforcement of this chapter, and their compensation and expenses shall be paid from the funds of
16 the department.

17 (e) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the department and/or board of land surveyors
18 from charging one or both parties a fee for the direct costs associated with hearings and transcripts
19 in accordance with the department's rules of procedure for administrative hearings.

20 (f) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the board from entering into consent agreements
21 or informal resolutions with any party under investigation for violations under this chapter and/or
22 chapter 84 of this title.

23 SECTION 5. Section 5-25-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-25 entitled "Veterinary
24 Practice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 **5-25-14. Grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of license.**

26 The division has the power to deny, revoke, or suspend any license issued under this
27 chapter or otherwise discipline a licensee upon proof of the following:

28 (1) Conviction of ~~a crime involving moral turpitude; conviction of~~ a felony; and conviction
29 of a crime arising out of the practice of veterinary medicine;

30 (2) Addiction to narcotics, habitual drunkenness, or rendering professional services to a
31 patient while the veterinarian is intoxicated or incapacitated by the use of drugs;

32 (3) Knowingly placing the health of a client at serious risk without maintaining proper
33 precautions;

34 (4) Fraud or misrepresentation in any phase of procuring or renewing a license;

1 (5) Unprofessional conduct, which includes the matters set forth in this section or other
2 matters as further defined in regulations of the division;

3 (6) Advertising designed to mislead the public;

4 (7) Representing certain procedures are performed with greater authority or expertise;

5 (8) Fraud or misrepresentation of treatment procedures or statements regarding the ability
6 to treat;

7 (9) Fee splitting or kickbacks of any kind, except where services are provided jointly;

8 (10) Failure to maintain acceptable sanitation standards;

9 (11) Malpractice, gross negligence, or wanton disregard of accepted professional
10 standards;

11 (12) Adjudication of mental incompetence;

12 (13) Lack of fitness to practice by reason of mental or physical impairment or otherwise;
13 or

14 (14) Any other grounds to deny, revoke, or suspend a license as provided for in the rules
15 and regulations.

16 SECTION 6. Sections 5-29-12 and 5-29-16 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-29 entitled
17 "Podiatrists" are hereby amended to read as follows:

18 **5-29-12. Refusal of licensure.**

19 (a) The director upon recommendation from the board shall, after due notice and a hearing
20 in accordance with procedures set forth in this chapter, refuse to grant the original license provided
21 for in this chapter to any podiatrist and/or applicant who is not of good moral character; who does
22 not meet the requirements for licensure set forth in this chapter and regulations established by the
23 board or director; who has violated any law ~~involving moral turpitude or~~ affecting the ability of
24 any podiatrist and/or applicant to practice podiatry; or who has been found guilty in another state
25 of conduct which, if committed in Rhode Island, would constitute unprofessional conduct as
26 defined by the general laws and regulations adopted pursuant to the general laws.

27 (b) The director shall serve a copy of the decision or ruling upon any person whose original
28 certificate has been refused.

29 **5-29-16. Unprofessional conduct.**

30 The term "unprofessional conduct" as used in this chapter includes, but is not limited to,
31 the following items or any combination of them and may be further defined by regulations
32 established by the board with the approval of the director:

33 (1) Fraudulent or deceptive procuring or use of a license of limited registration;

34 (2) All advertising of podiatry business that is intended or has a tendency to deceive the

1 public;

2 (3) Conviction ~~of a crime involving moral turpitude, conviction~~ of a felony, or conviction
3 of a crime arising out of the practice of podiatry;

4 (4) Abandonment of a patient;

5 (5) Dependence upon a controlled substance, habitual drunkenness, or rendering
6 professional services to a patient while the podiatrist or limited registrant is intoxicated or
7 incapacitated by the use of drugs;

8 (6) Promotion by a podiatrist or limited registrant of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances,
9 or goods or services provided for a patient in a manner that exploits the patient for the financial
10 gain of the podiatrist or limited registrant;

11 (7) Immoral conduct of a podiatrist or limited registrant in the practice of podiatry;

12 (8) Willfully making and filing false reports or records in the practice of podiatry;

13 (9) Willful omission to file or record, or willfully impeding or obstructing a filing or
14 recording, or inducing another person to omit to file or record podiatry/medical or other reports as
15 required by law;

16 (10) Failure to furnish details of a patient's medical record to a succeeding podiatrist or
17 medical facility upon proper request pursuant to this chapter;

18 (11) Solicitation of professional patronage by agents or persons or profiting from acts of
19 those representing themselves to be agents of the licensed podiatrist or limited registrant;

20 (12) Division of fees or agreeing to split or divide the fees received for professional services
21 for any person for bringing to or referring a patient;

22 (13) Agreeing with clinical or bioanalytical laboratories to accept payments from those
23 laboratories for individual tests or test series for patients, or agreeing with podiatry laboratories to
24 accept payment from those laboratories for work referred;

25 (14) Willful misrepresentation in treatment;

26 (15) Practicing podiatry with an unlicensed podiatrist except in accordance with the rules
27 and regulations of the board, or aiding or abetting those unlicensed persons in the practice of
28 podiatry;

29 (16) Gross and willful overcharging for professional services, including filing of false
30 statements for collection of fees for which services are not rendered or willfully making or assisting
31 in making a false claim or deceptive claim or misrepresenting a material fact for use in determining
32 rights to podiatric care or other benefits;

33 (17) Offering, undertaking, or agreeing to cure or treat disease by a secret method,
34 procedure, treatment, or medicine;

1 (18) Professional or mental incompetence;

2 (19) Incompetent, negligent, or willful misconduct in the practice of podiatry that includes
3 the rendering of unnecessary podiatry services and any departure from or the failure to conform to
4 the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing podiatry practice in his or her area of expertise
5 as is determined by the board. The board does not need to establish actual injury to the patient in
6 order to adjudge a podiatrist or limited registrant to be guilty of unprofessional conduct;

7 (20) Revocation, suspension, surrender, or limitation of privilege based on quality of care
8 provided or any other disciplinary action against a license to practice podiatry in another state or
9 jurisdiction, or revocation, suspension, surrender, or other disciplinary action as to membership on
10 any podiatry staff or in any podiatry or professional association or society for conduct similar to
11 acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as set forth in this chapter;

12 (21) Any adverse judgment, settlement, or award arising from a medical liability claim
13 related to acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as
14 defined in this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter;

15 (22) Failure to furnish the board, its director, investigator, or representative information
16 legally requested by the board;

17 (23) Violation of any provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board or
18 any rules and regulations promulgated by the director or of an action, stipulation, or agreement of
19 the board;

20 (24) Cheating on or attempting to subvert the licensing examination;

21 (25) Violating any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances;

22 (26) Failure to maintain standards established by peer-review boards, including but not
23 limited to, standards related to proper utilization of services, and use of nonaccepted procedure or
24 quality of care; or

25 (27) A podiatrist providing services to a person who is making a claim as a result of a
26 personal injury, who charges or collects from the person any amount in excess of the reimbursement
27 to the podiatrist by the insurer as a condition of providing or continuing to provide services or
28 treatment.

29 SECTION 7. Section 5-30-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-30 entitled "Chiropractic
30 Physicians" is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 **5-30-13. Continuing education requirements -- Grounds for refusal, revocation, or**
32 **suspension of certificates.**

33 (a) The division of professional regulation of the department of health may, after notice
34 and a hearing, in its discretion refuse to grant the certificate provided for in this chapter to any

1 chiropractic physician if the applicant has not furnished satisfactory evidence that he or she has
2 completed, in the twelve (12) months preceding each renewal date, at least twelve (12) hours of
3 instruction in chiropractic-related subjects as conducted by the Chiropractic Society of Rhode
4 Island or the equivalent as approved by the division. Satisfactory evidence of completion of
5 postgraduate study of a type and character, or at an educational session or institution approved by
6 the division, is considered equivalent. Every chiropractic physician licensed to practice within this
7 state, on or before the thirty-first day of October of every third year after the 1980 registration, shall
8 apply to the Rhode Island state board of chiropractic examiners for certification of triennial
9 registration with the board. The division may, after notice and a hearing, in its discretion refuse to
10 grant the certificate provided for in this chapter to any chiropractic physician, if the applicant has
11 not furnished satisfactory evidence to the board of examiners that in the preceding three (3) years
12 the practitioner has completed sixty (60) hours of instruction in chiropractic-related subjects
13 prescribed by the rules and regulations by the board of chiropractic examiners as conducted by the
14 Chiropractic Society of Rhode Island or the equivalent as approved by the division. Satisfactory
15 evidence of completion of postgraduate study of a type and character, or at an educational session
16 or institution approved by the division, is considered equivalent. The division may waive the
17 educational requirements if the division is satisfied that an applicant has suffered a hardship or for
18 any other sufficient reason was prevented from meeting the educational requirements.

19 (b) The division of professional regulation of the department of health may, after notice
20 and hearing, in its discretion refuse to grant the certificate provided for in this chapter to any
21 chiropractic physician who is not of good moral character, or who has violated any of the laws of
22 the state ~~involving moral turpitude or~~ affecting the ability of any chiropractic physician to practice
23 chiropractic medicine, or who has been guilty of gross unprofessional conduct or conduct of a
24 character likely to deceive or defraud the public, and may, after notice and hearing, revoke or
25 suspend any certificate issued or granted by it for like cause or for any fraud or deception committed
26 in obtaining the certificate. "Gross unprofessional conduct" is defined as including, but not being
27 limited to:

28 (1) The use of any false or fraudulent statement in any document connected with the
29 practice of chiropractic medicine;

30 (2) The obtaining of any fee by willful fraud or misrepresentation, either to a patient or
31 insurance plan;

32 (3) The willful violation of a privileged communication;

33 (4) Knowingly performing any act that in any way aids or assists an unlicensed person to
34 practice chiropractic medicine in violation of this chapter;

- 1 (5) The practice of chiropractic medicine under a false or assumed name;
- 2 (6) The advertising for the practice of chiropractic medicine in a deceptive or unethical
3 manner;
- 4 (7) The obtaining of a fee as personal compensation or gain for an employer or for a person
5 on a fraudulent representation that a manifestly incurable condition can be permanently cured;
- 6 (8) Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs;
- 7 (9) Willful or repeated violations of any of the rules or regulations of the state department
8 of health;
- 9 (10) Gross incompetence in the practice of his or her profession;
- 10 (11) Repeated acts of immorality or repeated acts of gross misconduct in the practice of his
11 or her profession;
- 12 (12) The procuring or aiding or abetting in procuring a criminal abortion; or
- 13 (13) A chiropractic physician providing services to a person who is making a claim as a
14 result of a personal injury who charges or collects from the person any amount in excess of the
15 reimbursement to the chiropractic physician by the insurer as a condition of providing or continuing
16 to provide services or treatment.

17 (c) The division of professional regulation of the department of health shall serve a copy
18 of its decision or ruling upon any person whose certificate has been revoked or refused.

19 SECTION 8. Sections 5-31.1-8 and 5-31.1-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-31.1
20 entitled "Dentists and Dental Hygienists" are hereby amended to read as follows:

21 **5-31.1-8. Refusal of licensure.**

22 (a) The director, upon recommendation from the board, after notice and hearing in
23 accordance with the procedures prescribed in this chapter, shall refuse to grant the original license
24 provided for in this chapter to any dentist, dental hygienist, DAANCE-certified maxillofacial
25 surgery assistant, and/or applicant who is not of good moral character; who does not meet the
26 requirements for licensure prescribed in this chapter and regulations established by the board or
27 director; who has violated any law ~~involving moral turpitude or~~ affecting the ability of any dentist,
28 dental hygienist, DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assistant, and/or applicant to practice
29 dentistry, dental hygiene, or DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assisting; or who has been
30 found guilty in another state of conduct that if committed in Rhode Island, would constitute
31 unprofessional conduct as defined in § 5-31.1-10 and regulations adopted under this chapter.

32 (b) The director shall serve a copy of his or her decision or ruling upon any person whose
33 original certificate has been refused.

34 **5-31.1-10. Unprofessional conduct.**

1 The term "unprofessional conduct" as used in this chapter includes, but is not limited to,
2 the following items or any combination of them and may be defined by regulations established by
3 the board with the approval of the director:

4 (1) Fraudulent or deceptive procuring or use of a license or limited registration;

5 (2) All advertising of dental, dental hygiene, or DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery
6 assisting business that is intended, or has a tendency, to deceive the public or a dentist advertising
7 as a specialty in an area of dentistry unless the dentist:

8 (i) Is a diplomat of or a fellow in a specialty board accredited or recognized by the
9 American Dental Association; or

10 (ii) Has completed a postgraduate program approved by the Commission on Dental
11 Accreditation of the American Dental Association;

12 (3) Conviction ~~of a crime involving moral turpitude; conviction~~ of a felony; conviction of
13 a crime arising out of the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, or DAANCE-certified maxillofacial
14 surgery assisting;

15 (4) Abandonment of a patient;

16 (5) Dependence upon controlled substances, habitual drunkenness, or rendering
17 professional services to a patient while the dentist, dental hygienist, DAANCE-certified
18 maxillofacial surgery assisting, or limited registrant is intoxicated or incapacitated by the use of
19 drugs;

20 (6) Promotion by a dentist, dental hygienist, DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery
21 assistant, or limited registrant of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances, or goods or services
22 provided for a patient in a manner as to exploit the patient for the financial gain of the dentist,
23 dental hygienist, DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assistant, or limited registrant;

24 (7) Immoral conduct of a dentist, dental hygienist, DAANCE-certified maxillofacial
25 surgery assistant, or limited registrant in the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, or DAANCE-
26 certified maxillofacial surgery assisting;

27 (8) Willfully making and filing false reports or records in the practice of dentistry or dental
28 hygiene;

29 (9) Willful omission to file or record, or willfully impeding or obstructing a filing or
30 recording, or inducing another person to omit to file or record dental or other reports as required
31 by law;

32 (10) Failure to furnish details of a patient's dental record to succeeding dentists or dental
33 care facility upon proper request pursuant to this chapter;

34 (11) Solicitation of professional patronage by agents or persons or profiting from acts of

1 those representing themselves to be agents of the licensed dentist, dental hygienist, or limited
2 registrant;

3 (12) Division of fees, or agreeing to split or divide the fees, received for professional
4 services for any person for bringing to or referring a patient;

5 (13) Agreeing with clinical or bioanalytical laboratories to accept payments from those
6 laboratories for individual tests or test series for patients, or agreeing with dental laboratories to
7 accept payment from those laboratories for work referred;

8 (14) Willful misrepresentation in treatments;

9 (15) Practicing dentistry with an unlicensed dentist or practicing dental hygiene with an
10 unlicensed dental hygienist or practicing DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assisting with
11 an unlicensed DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assistant, except in an accredited training
12 program, or with a dental assistant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board or
13 aiding or abetting those unlicensed persons in the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene;

14 (16) Gross and willful overcharging for professional services, including filing of false
15 statements for collection of fees for which services are not rendered, or willfully making or assisting
16 in making a false claim or deceptive claim or misrepresenting a material fact for use in determining
17 rights to dental care or other benefits;

18 (17) Offering, undertaking, or agreeing to cure or treat disease by a secret method,
19 procedure, treatment, or medicine;

20 (18) Professional or mental incompetence;

21 (19) Incompetent, negligent, or willful misconduct in the practice of dentistry, dental
22 hygiene, or DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assisting, including the rendering of
23 unnecessary dental services and any departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal
24 standards of acceptable and prevailing dental, dental hygiene, or DAANCE-certified maxillofacial
25 surgery assisting practice in his or her area of expertise as is determined by the board. The board
26 does not need to establish actual injury to the patient in order to adjudge a dentist, dental hygienist,
27 DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assistant, or limited registrant guilty of the previously
28 named misconduct;

29 (20) Failure to comply with the provisions of chapter 4.7 of title 23;

30 (21) Revocation, suspension, surrender, or limitation of privilege based on quality of care
31 provided or any other disciplinary action against a license to practice dentistry, dental hygiene, or
32 DAANCE-certified maxillofacial surgery assisting in another state or jurisdiction, or revocation,
33 suspension, surrender, or other disciplinary action as to membership on any dental staff or in any
34 dental or professional association or society for conduct similar to acts or conduct that would

1 constitute grounds for action as prescribed in this chapter;

2 (22) Any adverse judgment, settlement, or award arising from a dental-liability claim
3 related to acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as
4 defined in this chapter or regulations adopted under this chapter;

5 (23) Failure to furnish the board, its dental administrator, investigator, or representatives,
6 information legally requested by the board;

7 (24) Violation of any provision or provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of
8 the board or any rules and regulations promulgated by the director or of an action, stipulation, or
9 agreement of the board;

10 (25) Cheating on or attempting to subvert the licensing examination;

11 (26) Violating any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances;

12 (27) Failure to maintain standards established by peer-review boards, including, but not
13 limited to, standards related to proper utilization of services, and use of nonaccepted procedure
14 and/or quality of care;

15 (28) Malpractice as defined in § 5-37-1(8).

16 (29) No person licensed to practice dentistry in the state of Rhode Island may permit a non-
17 dentist who operates a dental facility in the form of a licensed outpatient healthcare center or
18 management service organization to interfere with the professional judgment of the dentist in the
19 practice.

20 SECTION 9. Sections 5-37-4 and 5-37-5.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-37 entitled
21 "Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline" are hereby amended to read as follows:

22 **5-37-4. Refusal of licensure.**

23 (a) The director at the direction of the board shall, after notice and hearing, in accordance
24 with the procedures established in §§ 5-37-5.2 -- 5-37-6.2, refuse to grant the original license
25 provided for in this chapter to any physician and/or applicant:

26 (1) Who is not of good moral character;

27 (2) Who does not meet the requirements for licensure prescribed in this chapter, regulations
28 established by the board, and/or regulations promulgated by the director;

29 (3) Who has violated any laws ~~involving moral turpitude or~~ affecting the ability of any
30 physician and/or applicant to practice medicine; or

31 (4) Who has been found guilty in another state of conduct which, if committed in Rhode
32 Island, would constitute unprofessional conduct as defined in § 5-37-5.1 and regulations adopted
33 under that section.

34 (b) The director shall serve a copy of his or her decision or ruling upon any person whose

1 original certificate has been refused.

2 **5-37-5.1. Unprofessional conduct.**

3 The term "unprofessional conduct" as used in this chapter includes, but is not limited to,
4 the following items or any combination of these items and may be further defined by regulations
5 established by the board with the prior approval of the director:

6 (1) Fraudulent or deceptive procuring or use of a license or limited registration;

7 (2) All advertising of medical business that is intended or has a tendency to deceive the
8 public;

9 (3) Conviction ~~of a crime involving moral turpitude; conviction~~ of a felony; conviction of
10 a crime arising out of the practice of medicine;

11 (4) Abandoning a patient;

12 (5) Dependence upon controlled substances, habitual drunkenness, or rendering
13 professional services to a patient while the physician or limited registrant is intoxicated or
14 incapacitated by the use of drugs;

15 (6) Promotion by a physician or limited registrant of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances,
16 or goods or services provided for a patient in a manner as to exploit the patient for the financial
17 gain of the physician or limited registrant;

18 (7) Immoral conduct of a physician or limited registrant in the practice of medicine;

19 (8) Willfully making and filing false reports or records in the practice of medicine;

20 (9) Willfully omitting to file or record, or willfully impeding or obstructing a filing or
21 recording, or inducing another person to omit to file or record, medical or other reports as required
22 by law;

23 (10) Failing to furnish details of a patient's medical record to succeeding physicians,
24 healthcare facility, or other healthcare providers upon proper request pursuant to § 5-37.3-4;

25 (11) Soliciting professional patronage by agents or persons or profiting from acts of those
26 representing themselves to be agents of the licensed physician or limited registrants;

27 (12) Dividing fees or agreeing to split or divide the fees received for professional services
28 for any person for bringing to or referring a patient;

29 (13) Agreeing with clinical or bioanalytical laboratories to accept payments from these
30 laboratories for individual tests or test series for patients;

31 (14) Making willful misrepresentations in treatments;

32 (15) Practicing medicine with an unlicensed physician except in an accredited
33 preceptorship or residency training program, or aiding or abetting unlicensed persons in the practice
34 of medicine;

- 1 (16) Gross and willful overcharging for professional services; including filing of false
2 statements for collection of fees for which services are not rendered, or willfully making or assisting
3 in making a false claim or deceptive claim or misrepresenting a material fact for use in determining
4 rights to health care or other benefits;
- 5 (17) Offering, undertaking, or agreeing to cure or treat disease by a secret method,
6 procedure, treatment, or medicine;
- 7 (18) Professional or mental incompetency;
- 8 (19) Incompetent, negligent, or willful misconduct in the practice of medicine, which
9 includes the rendering of medically unnecessary services, and any departure from, or the failure to
10 conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in his or her area
11 of expertise as is determined by the board. The board does not need to establish actual injury to the
12 patient in order to adjudge a physician or limited registrant guilty of the unacceptable medical
13 practice in this subsection;
- 14 (20) Failing to comply with the provisions of chapter 4.7 of title 23;
- 15 (21) Surrender, revocation, suspension, limitation of privilege based on quality of care
16 provided, or any other disciplinary action against a license or authorization to practice medicine in
17 another state or jurisdiction; or surrender, revocation, suspension, or any other disciplinary action
18 relating to a membership on any medical staff or in any medical or professional association or
19 society while under disciplinary investigation by any of those authorities or bodies for acts or
20 conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as described in this
21 chapter;
- 22 (22) Multiple adverse judgments, settlements, or awards arising from medical liability
23 claims related to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as described in this
24 chapter;
- 25 (23) Failing to furnish the board, its chief administrative officer, investigator, or
26 representatives, information legally requested by the board;
- 27 (24) Violating any provision or provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of
28 the board or any rules or regulations promulgated by the director or of an action, stipulation, or
29 agreement of the board;
- 30 (25) Cheating on or attempting to subvert the licensing examination;
- 31 (26) Violating any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances;
- 32 (27) Failing to maintain standards established by peer-review boards, including, but not
33 limited to, standards related to proper utilization of services, use of nonaccepted procedure, and/or
34 quality of care;

1 (28) A pattern of medical malpractice, or willful or gross malpractice on a particular
2 occasion;

3 (29) Agreeing to treat a beneficiary of health insurance under title XVIII of the Social
4 Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq., "Medicare Act," and then charging or collecting from this
5 beneficiary any amount in excess of the amount or amounts permitted pursuant to the Medicare
6 Act;

7 (30) Sexual contact between a physician and patient during the existence of the
8 physician/patient relationship; or

9 (31) Knowingly violating the provisions of subsection 23-4.13-2(d).

10 SECTION 10. Section 5-37.2-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-37.2 entitled "The
11 Healing Art of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine" is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 **5-37.2-15. Suspension, revocation, or refusal of license -- Grounds.**

13 The department may either refuse to issue or may suspend or revoke any license for any
14 one or any combination of the following causes:

15 (1) Conviction of a felony, ~~conviction of any offense involving moral turpitude,~~ or
16 conviction of a violation of any state or federal law regulating the possession, distribution, or use
17 of any controlled substance as defined in § 21-28-1.02, as shown by a certified copy of record of
18 the court;

19 (2) The obtaining of, or any attempt to obtain, a license, or to practice in the profession for
20 money or any other thing of value, by fraudulent misrepresentations;

21 (3) Gross malpractice;

22 (4) Advertising by means of knowingly false or deceptive statement;

23 (5) Advertising, practicing, or attempting to practice under a name other than one's own;

24 (6) Habitual drunkenness or habitual addiction to the use of a controlled substance as
25 defined in § 21-28-1.02;

26 (7) Using any false, fraudulent, or forged statement or document, or engaging in any
27 fraudulent, deceitful, dishonest, immoral practice in connection with the licensing requirement of
28 this chapter;

29 (8) Sustaining a physical or mental disability that renders further practice dangerous;

30 (9) Engaging in any dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct that may deceive,
31 defraud, or harm the public, or that is unbecoming a person licensed to practice under this chapter;

32 (10) Using any false or fraudulent statement in connection with the practice of acupuncture
33 or any branch of acupuncture;

34 (11) Violating, or attempting to violate, or assisting or abetting the violation of, or

- 1 conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter;
- 2 (12) Being adjudicated incompetent or insane;
- 3 (13) Advertising in an unethical or unprofessional manner;
- 4 (14) Obtaining a fee or financial benefit for any person by the use of fraudulent diagnosis,
5 therapy, or treatment;
- 6 (15) Willfully disclosing a privileged communication;
- 7 (16) Failure of a licensee to designate his or her school of practice in the professional use
8 of his or her name by the term "doctor of acupuncture and Oriental medicine";
- 9 (17) Willful violation of the law relating to the health, safety, or welfare of the public, or
10 of the rules and regulations promulgated by the state board of health;
- 11 (18) Administering, dispensing, or prescribing any controlled substance as defined in § 21-
12 28-1.02, except for the prevention, alleviation, or cure of disease or for relief from suffering; and
- 13 (19) Performing, assisting, or advising in the injection of any liquid silicone substance into
14 the human body.

15 SECTION 11. Section 5-40.1-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-40.1 entitled
16 "Occupational Therapy" is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **5-40.1-14. Grounds for refusal to renew, suspension, or revocation of license.**

18 (a) The board may deny a license or refuse to renew a license or may suspend or revoke a
19 license or may impose probationary conditions if the licensee has been found guilty of
20 unprofessional conduct that has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety
21 of the public. Unprofessional conduct includes:

- 22 (1) Obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material
23 facts;
- 24 (2) Being found guilty of fraud or deceit in connection with his or her services rendered as
25 an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant;
- 26 (3) Committing a felony, ~~whether or not involving moral turpitude, or a misdemeanor~~
27 ~~involving moral turpitude. In either case, conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction or a plea~~
28 ~~of "no contest" shall be conclusive evidence that a felony or misdemeanor was committed;~~
- 29 (4) Violating any lawful order, rule, or regulation rendered or adopted by the board;
- 30 (5) Failing to report, in writing, to the board any disciplinary decision issued against the
31 licensee or the applicant in another jurisdiction within thirty (30) days of the disciplinary decisions;
- 32 (6) Violating any provision of this chapter; and
- 33 (7) Providing services to a person who is making a claim as a result of a personal injury,
34 who charges or collects from the person any amount in excess of the reimbursement to the

1 occupational therapist by the insurer as a condition of providing or continuing to provide services
2 or treatment.

3 (b) A denial, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation, or imposition of probationary
4 conditions upon the license may be ordered by the board or the director of the department of health
5 after a hearing in the manner provided by the administrative procedures act, chapter 35 of title 42.

6 (c) The American Occupational Therapy Association's "Occupational Therapy Code of
7 Ethics" is adopted as a public statement of the values and principles used in promoting and
8 maintaining high standards of behavior in occupational therapy. These state:

9 (1) Occupational therapy personnel shall demonstrate a concern for the well-being of the
10 recipients of their services;

11 (2) Occupational therapy personnel shall respect the rights of the recipients of their
12 services;

13 (3) Occupational therapy personnel shall achieve and continually maintain high standards
14 of competence;

15 (4) Occupational therapy personnel shall comply with laws and association policies guiding
16 the profession of occupational therapy;

17 (5) Occupational therapy personnel shall provide accurate information about occupational
18 therapy services; and

19 (6) Occupational therapy personnel shall treat colleagues and other professionals with
20 fairness, discretion, and integrity.

21 SECTION 12. Section 5-48-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-48 entitled "Speech-
22 Language Pathology and Audiology" is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 **5-48-11. Grounds for suspension or revocation of licenses.**

24 The license of any speech-language pathologist or audiologist may be suspended or
25 revoked by the board upon proof that he or she:

26 (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtained or attempted to obtain a license for the applicant,
27 licensee, holder, or for another;

28 (2) Fraudulently or deceptively used a license;

29 (3) Altered a license;

30 (4) Aided or abetted unlicensed practice;

31 (5) Committed fraud and deceit in the practice of speech-language pathology or of
32 audiology, including, but not limited to:

33 (i) Using or promoting, or causing the use of, any misleading, deceiving, or untruthful
34 advertising matter, promotional literature, testimonial, guarantee, warranty, label, brand, insignia,

- 1 or any other representation;
- 2 (ii) Falsely representing the use or availability of services or advice of a physician;
- 3 (iii) Misrepresenting the applicant, licensee, or holder by using the word "doctor" or any
4 similar word, abbreviation, or symbol, if the use is not accurate or if the degree was not obtained
5 from an accredited institution;
- 6 (iv) Making or filing a false report or record in the practice of speech-language pathology
7 or audiology;
- 8 (v) Submitting a false statement to collect a fee; and
- 9 (vi) Obtaining a fee through fraud or misrepresentation;
- 10 (6) Providing services while mentally incompetent;
- 11 (7) Engaging in illegal, incompetent, or habitually negligent practice;
- 12 (8) Providing professional services while:
- 13 (i) Under the influence of alcohol; or
- 14 (ii) Using any narcotic or controlled dangerous substance or other drug that is in excess of
15 therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indication;
- 16 (9) Promoting the sale of devices, appliances, or products to a patient who cannot benefit
17 from these devices, appliances, or products;
- 18 (10) Violating any provision of this chapter, any lawful order given, or rule or regulation
19 adopted by the board or departure from or failure to conform to the current standards of acceptable
20 prevailing practice and code of ethics of speech-language pathology or audiology;
- 21 (11) Being convicted of, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony ~~or to a crime~~
22 ~~involving moral turpitude~~, whether or not any appeal or another proceeding is pending to have the
23 conviction or plea set aside;
- 24 (12) Incompetent or negligent misconduct in the practice of speech-language pathology or
25 audiology;
- 26 (13) Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;
- 27 (14) Being disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any other state or country,
28 or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country, for an act that would be grounds for
29 disciplinary action under this section; or
- 30 (15) Failing to maintain continuing education requirements.

31 SECTION 13. Section 5-49-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-49 entitled "Hearing Aid
32 Dealers and Fitters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 **5-49-12. Complaints -- Grounds and proceedings for revocation or suspension of**
34 **licenses.**

1 (a)(1) Any person wishing to make a complaint against a licensee under this chapter shall
2 file this complaint, in writing, with the department, within one year from the date of the action upon
3 which the complaint is based.

4 (2) If the department determines the charges made in the complaint are sufficient to warrant
5 a hearing to determine whether the license issued under this chapter should be suspended or
6 revoked, it shall make an order fixing a time and place for a hearing and shall require the licensee
7 complained against to appear and defend against the complaint. The order shall have annexed to it
8 a copy of the complaint.

9 (3) The order and copy of the complaint shall be served upon the licensee, either personally
10 or by registered mail sent to the licensee's last known address, at least twenty (20) days before the
11 date set for the hearing.

12 (4) Continuances or an adjournment of the hearing shall be made if for good cause.

13 (5) At the hearing, the licensee complained against may be represented by counsel.

14 (6) The licensee complained against and the department shall have the right to take
15 depositions in advance of the hearing and after service of the complaint, and either may compel the
16 attendance of witness by subpoenas issued by the department under its seal.

17 (7) Either party taking depositions shall give at least five (5) days' written notice to the
18 other party of the time and place of those depositions, and the other party has the right to attend
19 (with counsel if desired) and cross-examine.

20 (8) Appeals from suspension or revocation may be made through the appropriate
21 administrative procedures act.

22 (b) Any person registered under this chapter may have his or her license revoked or
23 suspended for a fixed period by the department for any of the following causes:

24 (1) The conviction of a felony, ~~or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude~~. The record of
25 conviction, or a certified copy, certified by the clerk of the court or by the judge in whose court the
26 conviction was had, shall be conclusive evidence of this conviction;

27 (2) Procuring a license by fraud or deceit practiced upon the department;

28 (3) Unethical conduct, including:

29 (i) Obtaining any fee or making any sale by fraud or misrepresentation;

30 (ii) Knowingly employing, directly or indirectly, any suspended or unregistered person to
31 perform any work covered by this chapter;

32 (iii) Using, or causing, or promoting the use of, any advertising matter, promotional
33 literature, testimonial, guarantee, warranty, label, brand, insignia or any other representation,
34 however disseminated or published, that is misleading, deceptive, or untruthful;

1 (iv) Advertising a particular model or type of hearing aid for sale when purchasers or
2 prospective purchasers responding to the advertisement cannot purchase the advertised model or
3 type, where it is established that the purpose of the advertisement is to obtain prospects for the sale
4 of a different model or type than that advertised;

5 (v) Representing that the service or advice of a person licensed to practice medicine will
6 be used or made available in the selection, fitting, adjustment, maintenance, or repair of hearing
7 aids when that is not true;

8 (vi) Habitual intemperance;

9 (vii) Gross immorality;

10 (viii) Permitting another's use of a license;

11 (ix) Advertising a manufacturer's product or using a manufacturer's name or trademark that
12 implies a relationship with the manufacturer that does not exist;

13 (x) Directly or indirectly giving or offering to give, or permitting or causing to be given,
14 money or anything of value to any person who advises another in a professional capacity, as an
15 inducement to influence him or her, or have him or her influence others, to purchase or contract to
16 purchase products sold or offered for sale by a hearing aid dealer or fitter, or influencing persons
17 to refrain from dealing in the products of competitors;

18 (xi) Representing, when this is not the case, that the hearing aid is or will be "custom-
19 made," "made to order," or "prescription-made," or in any other sense specially fabricated for an
20 individual person;

21 (4) Knowingly placing the health of a client at serious risk without maintaining proper
22 precautions;

23 (5) Engaging in the fitting and sale of hearing aids under a false name or alias with
24 fraudulent intent;

25 (6) Selling a hearing aid to a person who has not been given tests utilizing appropriate
26 established procedures and instrumentation in fitting of hearing aids, except in cases of selling
27 replacement hearing aids. Selling a hearing aid to a person who has discharge from the ear, loss of
28 balance and dizzy spells, or a loss of hearing for less than ninety (90) days, unless that person has
29 received a prescription from a physician;

30 (7) Gross incompetence or negligence in fitting and selling hearing aids;

31 (8) Violating any provisions of this chapter.

32 SECTION 14. Section 5-51-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-51 entitled "Rhode Island
33 State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects" is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 **5-51-17. Revocation or suspension of licenses or certificates of authorization.**

1 After notice and a hearing as provided in § 5-51-17.1, the director may in his or her
2 discretion or upon recommendation of the board: suspend, revoke, or take other permitted action
3 with respect to any license; and/or revoke, suspend, or take other permitted action with respect to
4 any certificate of authorization; and/or publicly censure, or reprimand or censure in writing; and/or
5 limit the scope of practice of; and/or impose an administrative fine upon (not to exceed one
6 thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation); and/or place on probation; and/or for good cause
7 shown, order a reimbursement of the department for all fees, expenses, costs, and attorney's fees in
8 connection with the proceedings (which amounts shall be deposited as general revenues), all with
9 or without terms, conditions, or limitations, holders of a license or certificate of authorization
10 (hereafter referred to as licensee(s)), for any one or more of the following causes:

11 (1) Bribery, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining a license or certificate of
12 authorization;

13 (2) Practicing landscape architecture in another state or country or jurisdiction in violation
14 of the laws of that state or country or jurisdiction;

15 (3) Practicing landscape architecture in this state in violation of the standards of
16 professional conduct established by the board and approved by the director;

17 (4) Fraud, deceit, recklessness, gross negligence, misconduct, or incompetence in the
18 practice of landscape architecture;

19 (5) Use of a landscape architect's stamp in violation of § 5-51-11;

20 (6) Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or chapter 84 of this title;

21 (7) Suspension or revocation of the right to practice landscape architecture before any state
22 or before any other country or jurisdiction;

23 (8) Conviction of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to any felony or to any crime of, or
24 an act constituting a crime of, forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses,
25 bribery, larceny, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or any other similar offense ~~or offenses involving~~
26 ~~moral turpitude~~, in a court of competent jurisdiction of this state or any other state or of the federal
27 government;

28 (9) Failure to furnish to the department and/or board, or any person acting on behalf of the
29 board, in a reasonable time the information that may be legally requested by the department and/or
30 board;

31 (10) In conjunction with any violation of subsections (1) through (9) of this section, any
32 conduct reflecting adversely upon the licensee's fitness to engage in the practice of landscape
33 architecture; and

34 (11) In conjunction with any violation of subsections (1) through (9) of this section, any

1 other conduct discreditable to the landscape architectural profession.

2 SECTION 15. Section 5-54-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-54 entitled "Physician
3 Assistants" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **5-54-2. Definitions.**

5 As used in this chapter, the following words have the following meanings:

6 (1) "Administrator" means the administrator, division of professional regulation.

7 (2) "Approved program" means a program for the education and training of physician
8 assistants formally approved by the American Medical Association's (A.M.A.'s) Committee on
9 Allied Health, Education and Accreditation, its successor, the Commission on Accreditation of
10 Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or its successor.

11 (3) "Approved program for continuing medical education" means a program for continuing
12 education approved by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) or the
13 Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education of the American Medical Association
14 (AMA), or the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAPFP) or the American Osteopathic
15 Association Committee on Continuing Medical Education (AOACCME) or any other board-
16 approved program.

17 (4) "Board" means the board of licensure of physician assistants.

18 (5) "Collaboration" means the physician assistant shall, as indicated by the patient's
19 condition, the education, competencies, and experience of the physician assistant, and the standards
20 of care, consult with or refer to an appropriate physician or other healthcare professional. The
21 degree of collaboration shall be determined by the practice and includes decisions made by a
22 physician employer, physician group practice, and the credentialing and privileging systems of a
23 licensed hospital, health center, or ambulatory care center. A physician must be accessible at all
24 times for consultation by the physician assistant.

25 (6) "Director" means the director of the department of health.

26 (7) "Division" means the division of professional regulation, department of health.

27 (8) [Deleted by P.L. 2013, ch. 320, § 1 and P.L. 2013, ch. 420, § 1].

28 (9) "Physician" means a person licensed under the provisions of chapter 29 or 37 of this
29 title.

30 (10) "Physician assistant" or "PA" means a person who is qualified by academic and
31 practical training to provide medical and surgical services in collaboration with physicians.

32 (11) "Unprofessional conduct" includes, but is not limited to, the following items or any
33 combination and may be defined by regulations established by the board with prior approval of the
34 director:

- 1 (i) Fraudulent or deceptive procuring or use of a license;
- 2 (ii) Representation of himself or herself as a physician;
- 3 (iii) Conviction ~~of a crime involving moral turpitude; conviction~~ of a felony; conviction of
4 a crime arising out of the practice of medicine. All advertising of medical business that is intended
5 or has a tendency to deceive the public;
- 6 (iv) Abandonment of a patient;
- 7 (v) Dependence upon a controlled substance, habitual drunkenness, or rendering
8 professional services to a patient while intoxicated or incapacitated by the use of drugs;
- 9 (vi) Promotion of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances, or goods or services provided for
10 a patient in a manner that exploits the patient for the financial gain of the physician assistant;
- 11 (vii) Immoral conduct of a physician assistant in the practice of medicine;
- 12 (viii) Willfully making and filing false reports or records;
- 13 (ix) Willful omission to file or record or willfully impeding or obstructing a filing or
14 recording, or inducing another person to omit to file or record medical or other reports as required
15 by law;
- 16 (x) Agreeing with clinical or bioanalytical laboratories to accept payments from these
17 laboratories for individual tests or test series for patients;
- 18 (xi) Practicing with an unlicensed physician or physician assistant or aiding or abetting
19 these unlicensed persons in the practice of medicine;
- 20 (xii) Offering, undertaking, or agreeing to cure or treat a disease by a secret method,
21 procedure, treatment, or medicine;
- 22 (xiii) Professional or mental incompetence;
- 23 (xiv) Surrender, revocation, suspension, limitation of privilege based on quality of care
24 provided, or any other disciplinary action against a license or authorization to practice in another
25 state or jurisdiction; or surrender, revocation, suspension, or any other disciplinary action relating
26 to membership on any medical staff or in any medical professional association, or society while
27 under disciplinary investigation by any of those authorities or bodies for acts or conduct similar to
28 acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as stated in this chapter;
- 29 (xv) Any adverse judgment, settlement, or award arising from a medical liability claim
30 related to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as stated in this chapter;
- 31 (xvi) Failure to furnish the board, the administrator, investigator, or representatives,
32 information legally requested by the board;
- 33 (xvii) Violation of any provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated
34 by the director or an action, stipulation, or agreement of the board;

- 1 (xviii) Cheating or attempting to subvert the certifying examination;
- 2 (xix) Violating any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances;
- 3 (xx) Medical malpractice;
- 4 (xxi) Sexual contact between a physician assistant and patient during the existence of the
- 5 physician assistant/patient relationship;
- 6 (xxii) Providing services to a person who is making a claim as a result of a personal injury,
- 7 who charges or collects from the person any amount in excess of the reimbursement to the physician
- 8 assistant by the insurer as a condition of providing or continuing to provide services or treatment.

9 SECTION 16. Section 5-56.1-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-56.1 entitled "Designers

10 of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems" is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **5-56.1-8. Denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses -- Censure.**

12 (a) The licensing authority may deny, suspend, or revoke a designer's license if the person

13 or licensed designer fails to comply with the requirements prescribed in this chapter or any

14 regulation promulgated under this chapter or where the person or licensed designer:

15 (1) Provided incorrect, incomplete, or misleading information in obtaining a designer's

16 license; or

17 (2) Demonstrated gross or repeated negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the

18 representation of site conditions in an application to the department of environmental management,

19 design of an ISDS, or inspection or certification of an installation of an ISDS; or

20 (3) ~~Committed a felony involving moral turpitude~~ Been convicted of a felony; or

21 (4) Failed or neglected to comply with continuing-education requirements established by

22 the licensing authority.

23 (b) An action to suspend or revoke a designer's license pursuant to subsection (a) may not

24 be taken until after the licensed designer has an opportunity to have a hearing before the licensing

25 authority. This hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of written notice of intent to suspend

26 or revoke the license.

27 (c) The licensing authority shall appoint a review panel consisting of five (5) members, at

28 least three (3) of whom shall be licensed designers not employed by the licensing authority, for the

29 purpose of reviewing and hearing disciplinary actions contemplated under subsection (b). The

30 review board shall make recommendations to the licensing authority to suspend or revoke licenses.

31 All final decisions shall be made by the licensing authority.

32 (d) Any person aggrieved by the denial of an application for a license pursuant to § 5-56.1-

33 4, or a denial, suspension, or revocation of a license pursuant to this section, may request a formal

34 hearing pursuant to § 42-17.1-2(21) that shall be granted, if requested, in writing by the aggrieved

1 applicant or licensee within ten (10) days of the denial, suspension, or revocation.

2 (e) The licensing authority may publicly censure any licensed designer whose license was
3 suspended or revoked.

4 SECTION 17. Section 5-60-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-60 entitled "Athletic
5 Trainers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **5-60-14. Grounds for refusal or revocation of licenses.**

7 The board may refuse to issue a license to an applicant or may suspend, revoke, or refuse
8 to renew the license of any licensee if he or she has:

9 (1) Been convicted of a felony ~~or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude~~, the record of
10 conviction being conclusive evidence of conviction if the department determines after investigation
11 that the person has not been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust;

12 (2) Secured a license under this chapter by fraud or deceit; or

13 (3) Violated or conspired to violate this chapter or rules or regulations issued pursuant to
14 this chapter.

15 SECTION 18. Section 5-61-3.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-61 entitled "Telephone
16 Sales Solicitation Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **5-61-3.2. Other grounds for denial of registration.**

18 The department may delay, reject, or revoke a registration if the department finds that a
19 telephonic seller or any person applying for registration as a telephonic seller, including, but not
20 limited to, owners, operators, officers, directors, partners, or other individuals engaged in the
21 management activities of a business entity:

22 (1) Has been convicted or found guilty of, or has entered a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo
23 contendere to, racketeering or any offense involving fraud, theft, embezzlement, fraudulent
24 conversion, or misappropriation of property, ~~or any other crime involving moral turpitude~~;

25 (2) For purposes of this section, a plea of nolo contendere is a conviction;

26 (3) Has had entered against him or her or an affiliated business, an injunction, a temporary
27 restraining order, or a final judgment or order, including a stipulated judgment or order, an
28 assurance of voluntary compliance, or any similar document, in any civil or administrative action
29 involving racketeering, fraud, theft, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of
30 property or the use of any untrue or misleading representations in an attempt to sell or dispose of
31 real or personal property or the use of any unfair, unlawful, or deceptive trade practice;

32 (4) Is subject to, or has been affiliated with, any company that is, or ever has been, subject
33 to any injunction, temporary restraining order, or final judgment or order, including a stipulated
34 judgment or order, an assurance of voluntary compliance, or any similar document, or any

1 restrictive court order relating to a business activity as the result of any action brought by a
2 governmental agency, including any action affecting any license to do business or practice an
3 occupation or trade;

4 (5) Has at any time during the previous seven (7) years filed for bankruptcy, been adjudged
5 bankrupt, or been reorganized because of insolvency;

6 (6) Has been a principal, director, officer, or trustee of, or a general or limited partner in,
7 or had responsibilities as a manager in, any corporation, partnership, joint venture, or other entity
8 that filed for bankruptcy, was adjudged bankrupt, or was reorganized because of insolvency within
9 one year after the person held that position;

10 (7) Has been previously convicted of, or found to have been, acting as a salesperson or
11 telephonic seller without a registration or whose registration has previously been refused, revoked,
12 or suspended in any jurisdiction;

13 (8) Falsifies or willfully omits any material information asked for in any application,
14 document, or record required to be submitted or retained under this chapter;

15 (9) Makes a material false statement in response to any request or investigation by the
16 department;

17 (10) Refuses or fails, after notice, to produce any document or record or disclose any
18 information required to be produced or disclosed under this chapter or the rules of the department;

19 or

20 (11) Otherwise violates or is operating in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter
21 or of the rules adopted or court orders issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

22 SECTION 19. Section 5-65.1-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-65.1 entitled "Home
23 Inspectors" is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 **5-65.1-11. Grounds for discipline -- Injunctions.**

25 (a) After a hearing in accordance with the administrative regulations promulgated by the
26 board, the board may revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue, reinstate, or reissue a license if the board
27 determines that a licensee or applicant has:

28 (1) Disclosed any information concerning the results of the home inspection without the
29 approval of a client or the client's representatives;

30 (2) Accepted compensation from more than one interested party for the same service
31 without the consent of all interested parties;

32 (3) Accepted commissions or allowances, directly or indirectly, from other parties dealing
33 with his or her client in connection with the inspection for which the licensee is responsible;

34 (4) Failed to promptly disclose to a client information about any business interest of the

1 licensee that may affect the client in connection with the home inspection;

2 (5) Obtained a license or authorization to sit for an examination, as the case may be, through
3 fraud, deception, or misrepresentation;

4 (6) Engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation,
5 false promise, or false pretense;

6 (7) Engaged in gross negligence, gross malpractice, or gross incompetence;

7 (8) Engaged in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice, or incompetence;

8 (9) Engaged in professional or occupational misconduct as may be determined by the
9 board;

10 (10) Been convicted of ~~any crime involving moral turpitude or~~ any crime relating adversely
11 to the activity regulated by the board. For the purpose of this subsection, a plea of guilty or nolo
12 contendere shall be deemed a conviction;

13 (11) Had his or her authority to engage in the activity regulated by the board revoked or
14 suspended by any other state, agency, or authority for reasons consistent with this section;

15 (12) Attempted to limit liability for negligent or wrongful errors or omissions by use of a
16 clause within a performance contract that limits the damages for negligent or wrongful errors or
17 omissions;

18 (13) Failed to provide a written report of the completed home inspection;

19 (14) Violated or failed to comply with any order of the board or provisions of this chapter
20 or any rule or regulation promulgated and administered by the board pursuant to this chapter;

21 (15) Become incapable, for medical or any other material reason, of discharging the
22 functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety, and welfare;

23 (16) Failed to obtain or maintain the insurance required by § 5-65.1-10;

24 (17) Knowingly assisted an unlicensed person to act in violation of this chapter; or

25 (18) Failed to comply with the provisions of § 5-20.8-8.

26 (b) In addition to all other remedies, when it appears to the board that a person has engaged
27 in, or is engaging in, any act, practice, or transaction that violates the provisions of this chapter, the
28 board may direct the attorney general to apply to the court for an injunction restraining the person
29 from violating the provisions of this chapter.

30 (c)(1) The board may, after a hearing, impose a fine in an amount not to exceed five
31 thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the first violation of this chapter, or any rules or regulations
32 promulgated by the board.

33 (2) For each second violation of a particular subsection of this chapter or of a rule or
34 regulation promulgated by the board, a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be

1 imposed after a hearing by the board.

2 (d) The board, may, in lieu of a fine or other sanction, order a licensee to attend continuing-
3 education courses as appropriate. Failure to adhere to the requirement could result in immediate
4 revocation of a license.

5 SECTION 20. Section 5-69-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-69 entitled "License
6 Procedure for Chemical Dependency Professionals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 **5-69-6. Licensing board.**

8 (a) Within the department there shall be established a board of licensing for chemical
9 dependency professionals. The governor shall appoint a licensing board consisting of seven (7)
10 members.

11 (b)(1) Of the seven (7) licensing board members, three (3) shall be licensed under this
12 chapter;

13 (2) Licensing board members shall be:

14 (i) Two (2) members appointed by the governor shall be representatives of groups that
15 reflect demographics of person(s) served;

16 (ii) Three (3) members shall represent the licensed professionals appointed by the director
17 of health;

18 (iii) One member shall be an active member or administrator of the Rhode Island board for
19 certification of chemical dependency professionals appointed by the director of health;

20 (iv) One member shall be a consumer advocate from an established substance abuse
21 recovery consumer advocacy group appointed by the director of health.

22 (3) Licensing board members shall serve without compensation.

23 (4) Each licensing board member shall take and subscribe to the oath of affirmation
24 prescribed by law and shall file this oath in the office of the secretary of state.

25 (5) The term of office shall be three (3) years, except that of the members of the first
26 licensing board. Three (3) shall be appointed for a term of one year, three (3) for a term of two (2)
27 years, three (3) for a term of three (3) years. At least one member representing the general public,
28 and one member representing a minority group, as defined by the federal Department of Health,
29 Education, and Welfare, shall be appointed for the initial term of three (3) full years. Successors to
30 these licensing board positions shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years each, except that any
31 person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term of office. Upon expiration of the
32 term of office, a member shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. No
33 person shall be appointed for more than two (2) consecutive three-year (3) terms.

34 (6) The governor may remove any member of the licensing board for neglect of duty;

1 malfeasance; conviction of a felony ~~or a crime of moral turpitude~~ while in office; or for lack of
2 attendance/participation in board meetings. No licensing board member shall participate in any
3 matter before the licensing board in which pecuniary interest, personal bias, or other similar
4 conflicts of interests is established.

5 SECTION 21. Sections 5-74.1-5 and 5-74.1-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-74.1
6 entitled "Uniform Athlete Agents Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

7 **5-74.1-5. Registration as athlete agent -- Form -- Requirements.**

8 (a) An applicant for registration shall submit an application for registration to the secretary
9 of state in a form prescribed by the secretary of state. An application filed under this section is a
10 public record. The application must be in the name of an individual and, except as otherwise
11 provided in subsection (b) herein, signed or otherwise authenticated by the applicant under penalty
12 of perjury and state or contain:

13 (1) The name of the applicant and the address of the applicant's principal place of business;

14 (2) The name of the applicant's business or employer, if applicable;

15 (3) Any business or occupation engaged in by the applicant for the five (5) years next
16 preceding the date of submission of the application;

17 (4) A description of the applicant's:

18 (i) Formal training as an athlete agent;

19 (ii) Practical experience as an athlete agent; and

20 (iii) Educational background relating to the applicant's activities as an athlete agent;

21 (5) The names and address of three (3) individuals not related to the applicant who are
22 willing to serve as references;

23 (6) The name, sport, and last-known team for each individual for whom the applicant acted
24 as an athlete agent during the five (5) years next preceding the date of submission of the application;

25 (7) The names and addresses of all persons who are:

26 (i) With respect to the athlete agent's business if it is not a corporation, the partners,
27 members, officers, managers, associates, or profit shares of the business; and

28 (ii) With respect to a corporation employing the athlete agent, the officers, directors, and
29 any shareholder of the corporation having an interest of five percent (5%) or greater;

30 (8) Whether the applicant or any person named pursuant to subsection (a)(7) has been
31 convicted of a crime that, if committed in this state, would be ~~a crime involving moral turpitude or~~
32 a felony, and identify the crime;

33 (9) Whether there has been any administrative or judicial determination that the applicant
34 or any person named pursuant to subsection (a)(7) has made a false, misleading, deceptive, or

1 fraudulent representation;

2 (10) Any instance in which the conduct of the applicant or any person named pursuant to
3 subsection (a)(7) resulted in the imposition of a sanction, suspension, or declaration of ineligibility
4 to participate in an interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic event on a student athlete or educational
5 institution;

6 (11) Any sanction, suspension, or disciplinary action taken against the applicant or any
7 person named pursuant to subsection (a)(7) arising out of occupational or professional conduct; and

8 (12) Whether there has been any denial of an application for, suspension or revocation of,
9 or refusal to renew the registration or licensure of the applicant or any person named pursuant to
10 subsection (a)(7) as an athlete agent in any state.

11 (b) An individual who has submitted an application for, and holds a certificate of
12 registration or licensure as an athlete agent in another state, may submit a copy of the application
13 and certificate in lieu of submitting an application in the form prescribed pursuant to subsection
14 (a). The secretary of state shall accept the application and the certificate from the other state as an
15 application for registration in this state if the application to the other state:

16 (1) Was submitted in the other state within six (6) months next preceding the submission
17 of the application in this state and the applicant certifies that the information contained in the
18 application is current;

19 (2) Contains information substantially similar to or more comprehensive than that required
20 in an application submitted in this state; and

21 (3) Was signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury.

22 **5-74.1-6. Certificate of registration -- Issuance or denial -- Renewal.**

23 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the secretary of state
24 shall issue a certificate of registration to an individual who complies with § 5-74.1-5(a) or whose
25 application has been accepted under § 5-74.1-5(b).

26 (b) The secretary of state may refuse to issue a certificate of registration if the secretary of
27 state determines that the applicant has engaged in conduct that has a significant adverse effect on
28 the applicant's fitness to act as an athlete agent. In making the determination, the secretary of state
29 may consider whether the applicant has:

30 (1) Been convicted of a crime that, if committed in this state, would be ~~a crime involving~~
31 ~~moral turpitude or~~ a felony;

32 (2) Made a materially false, misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent representation in the
33 application or as an athlete agent;

34 (3) Engaged in conduct that would disqualify the applicant from serving in a fiduciary

1 capacity;

2 (4) Engaged in conduct prohibited by § 5-74.1-14;

3 (5) Had a registration or licensure as an athlete agent suspended, revoked, or denied or been
4 refused renewal of registration or licensure as an athlete agent in any state;

5 (6) Engaged in conduct the consequence of which was that a sanction, suspension, or
6 declaration of ineligibility to participate in an interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic event was
7 imposed on a student athlete or educational institution; or

8 (7) Engaged in conduct that significantly adversely reflects on the applicant's credibility,
9 honesty, or integrity.

10 (c) In making a determination under subsection (b) of this section, the secretary of state
11 shall consider:

12 (1) How recently the conduct occurred;

13 (2) The nature of the conduct and the context in which it occurred; and

14 (3) Any other relevant conduct of the applicant.

15 (d) An athlete agent may apply to renew a registration by submitting an application for
16 renewal in a form prescribed by the secretary of state. An application filed under this section is a
17 public record. The application for renewal must be signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury
18 and must contain current information on all matters required in an original registration.

19 (e) An individual who has submitted an application for renewal of registration or licensure
20 in another state, in lieu of submitting an application for renewal in the form prescribed pursuant to
21 subsection (d) of this section, may file a copy of the application for renewal and a valid certificate
22 of registration or licensure from the other state. The secretary of state shall accept the application
23 for renewal from the other state as an application for renewal in this state if the application to the
24 other state:

25 (1) Was submitted in the other state within six (6) months next preceding the filing in this
26 state and the applicant certifies the information contained in the application for renewal is current;

27 (2) Contains information substantially similar to or more comprehensive than that required
28 in an application for renewal submitted in this state; and

29 (3) Was signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury.

30 (f) A certificate of registration or a renewal of a registration is valid for two (2) years.

31 (g) Upon the secretary of state's approval of any registration for an athlete agent, the
32 secretary of state's office will notify the athletic director of any institution of higher education
33 within the state of Rhode Island that participates in intercollegiate athletics at the Division I, II, or
34 III level by providing that office with a copy of the agent's registration and disclosure statements.

1 SECTION 22. Section 23-19.12-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-19.12 entitled
2 "Generation - Transportation - Storage - Treatment - Management and Disposal of Regulated
3 Medical Waste" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **23-19.12-13. Denial or revoking of licenses.**

5 The director of the department of environmental management may deny an application for
6 a license, or suspend or revoke a license after it has been granted, or refuse to renew a license for
7 any of the following reasons:

8 (1) Proof of unfitness of the applicant or licensee to engage in the business;

9 (2) A material misstatement by the applicant or licensee in his or her application for a
10 license or renewal;

11 (3) Failure of the applicant or licensee to comply with the provisions of this chapter or with
12 any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to this chapter;

13 (4) A history of noncompliance with environmental regulations or standards, or conviction
14 of any environmental crime ~~or other crimes involving moral turpitude~~. This subdivision applies to:
15 the applicant, and officers, major stock holders, or principals of the business for which the
16 application is submitted or to which an existing license has been issued.

17 SECTION 23. Sections 23-28.28-3, 23-28.28-4 and 23-28.28-5 of the General Laws in
18 Chapter 23-28.28 entitled "Explosives" are hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **23-28.28-3. Manufacturing permit.**

20 (a) Application for a permit to manufacture explosives shall be made to the state fire
21 marshal in such form as the state fire marshal shall prescribe; and shall state, among other things:

22 (1) The name and address of the applicant;

23 (2) The reason for desiring to manufacture explosives;

24 (3) The applicant's citizenship, if the applicant is an individual;

25 (4) If the applicant is a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and their
26 citizenship; and

27 (5) If the applicant is an association or corporation, the names and addresses of the officers
28 and directors thereof and their citizenship.

29 (b) The state fire marshal shall issue the permit applied for unless he or she finds that either
30 the applicant or the officers, agents, or employees of the applicant has been convicted of ~~a crime~~
31 ~~involving moral turpitude, or~~ a felony, or is disloyal to the United States, or otherwise does not
32 qualify under rules and regulations as promulgated by the state fire marshal.

33 **23-28.28-4. Dealers' permits.**

34 (a) Application for permits to engage in the business of dealing in explosives other than

1 empty cartridge shells (primed), percussion caps, small arms ammunition, small arms primers,
2 smokeless powder, and black powder for small arms shall be made to the state fire marshal in such
3 form as the state fire marshal shall prescribe and shall state among other things:

- 4 (1) The name and address of the applicant;
- 5 (2) The reason for desiring to engage in the business of dealing in explosives;
- 6 (3) Citizenship, if an individual application;
- 7 (4) If a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and their citizenship; and
- 8 (5) If an association or corporation, the names and addresses of the officers and directors
9 thereof, and their citizenship.

10 (b) The state fire marshal shall issue the permit applied for only to businesses for use at
11 their place of business unless he or she finds that either the applicant or the officer, agents, or
12 employees of the applicant have been convicted of a felony ~~or crime involving moral turpitude~~, or
13 are disloyal to the United States, or otherwise do not qualify under rules and regulations as
14 promulgated by the state fire marshal.

15 **23-28.28-5. Permit to possess explosives.**

16 (a) Application for a permit to possess explosives, other than empty cartridge shells
17 (primed), percussion caps, small arms ammunition, small arms primers and smokeless powder for
18 small arms, or black powder in excess of five (5) pounds shall be made in writing to the state fire
19 marshal in such form as the state fire marshal shall prescribe and shall state among other things:

- 20 (1) The name and address of the applicant;
- 21 (2) The reason for desiring the permit to possess explosives;
- 22 (3) The applicant's citizenship, if the applicant is an individual;
- 23 (4) If the applicant is a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and their
24 citizenship; and
- 25 (5) If the applicant is a corporation or other business entity, the names and addresses of the
26 officers thereof and their citizenship.

27 (b) The state fire marshal shall issue the permit applied for unless he or she finds that either
28 the applicant or the officers, agents, or employees of the applicant have been convicted of a felony
29 ~~or a crime involving moral turpitude~~, or is disloyal to the United States, and, provided, further, that
30 no permit shall be issued to any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years of age.

31 (c) Provided, however, that if the applicant holds a valid permit from the bureau of alcohol,
32 tobacco, and firearms of the department of treasury, then the state fire marshal may issue a permit
33 to possess explosives.

34 SECTION 24. Section 27-72-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-72 entitled "Life

1 Settlements Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 **27-72-4. License suspension, revocation or refusal to renew.**

3 (a) The commissioner may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the license of any licensee
4 if the commissioner finds that:

5 (1) There was any material misrepresentation in the application for the license;

6 (2) The licensee or any officer, partner, member or director has been guilty of fraudulent
7 or dishonest practices, is subject to a final administrative action or is otherwise shown to be
8 untrustworthy or incompetent to act as a licensee;

9 (3) The provider demonstrates a pattern of unreasonably withholding payments to policy
10 owners;

11 (4) The licensee no longer meets the requirements for initial licensure;

12 (5) The licensee or any officer, partner, member or director has been convicted of a felony,
13 or of any misdemeanor of which criminal fraud is an element; or the licensee has pleaded guilty or
14 nolo contendere with respect to any felony or any misdemeanor of which criminal fraud ~~or moral~~
15 ~~turpitude~~ is an element, regardless whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court;

16 (6) The provider has entered into any life settlement contract using a form that has been
17 approved pursuant to this chapter;

18 (7) The provider has failed to honor contractual obligations set out in a life settlement
19 contract;

20 (8) The provider has assigned, transferred or pledged a settled policy to a person other than
21 a provider licensed in this state, a purchaser, an accredited investor or qualified institutional buyer
22 as defined respectively in Regulation D, Rule 501 or Rule 144A of the Federal Securities Act of
23 1933, as amended, financing entity, special purpose entity, or related provider trust; or

24 (9) The licensee or any officer, partner, member or key management personnel has violated
25 any of the provisions of this chapter.

26 (b) Before the commissioner denies a license application or suspends, revokes or refuses
27 to renew the license of any licensee under this chapter, the commissioner shall conduct a hearing
28 in accordance with this state's laws governing administrative hearings.

29 SECTION 25. Section 41-10-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 41-10 entitled "Offtrack
30 Betting" is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 **41-10-5. Licensing restrictions.**

32 (a) The division shall refuse to grant a license, or shall suspend a license, if the applicant
33 or licensee:

34 (1) Has been convicted of a felony, ~~or any crime involving moral turpitude;~~

- 1 (2) Has engaged in illegal gambling as a significant source of income;
- 2 (3) Has been convicted of violating any gambling statutes;
- 3 (4) Has been convicted of fraud or misrepresentation in any connection; or
- 4 (5) Has been found to have violated any rule, regulation, or order of the division.
- 5 (b) The license heretofore issued shall be suspended by the division for any charge that
- 6 may result in a conviction or conduct prescribed in subsections (a)(1) through (a)(5); which
- 7 suspension shall be effective until a final judicial determination.
- 8 (c) The division shall refuse to grant, or the division shall suspend, pending a hearing before
- 9 the division, a license if the applicant or licensee is an association or corporation:
- 10 (1) Any of whose directors, officers, partners, or shareholders holding a five percent (5%)
- 11 or greater interest have been found guilty of any of the activities specified in subsection (a); or
- 12 (2) In which it appears to the division that due to the experience, character, or general
- 13 fitness of any director, officer, or controlling partner, or shareholder, the granting of a license would
- 14 be inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, or trust.
- 15 (d) Whenever requested by the division, the division of criminal identification of the
- 16 department of the attorney general, the superintendent of state police, and the superintendent or
- 17 chief of police or town sergeant of any city or town, shall furnish all information on convictions,
- 18 arrests, and present investigations concerning any person who is an applicant for a license or who
- 19 is a licensee under this chapter.

20 SECTION 26. Section 42-61-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-61 entitled "State

21 Lottery" is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 **42-61-5. Sales agents.**

23 (a) For the purpose of this chapter, the term "person" shall be construed to mean and include

24 an individual, association, partnership, corporation, trust, estate, company, receiver, trustee,

25 referee, or other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, whether appointed by a

26 court or otherwise, and any combination of individuals. "Person" shall be construed to mean all

27 departments, committees, commissions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the state, including

28 counties and municipalities and agencies and instrumentalities of the state.

29 (b)(1) The director of lotteries may license any person as a lottery sales agent as provided

30 in this chapter. No license shall be issued to any person to engage in the sale of lottery tickets as

31 his or her sole occupation or business.

32 (2) As part of its investigation as to whether to issue a lottery sales agent license, the Rhode

33 Island lottery shall require criminal background checks of the applicant for a retail sales agent

34 license as it deems appropriate and said individuals shall apply to the bureau of criminal

1 investigation of the Rhode Island state police or the Rhode Island department of the attorney general
2 for a national criminal records check with fingerprinting. The applicant whose criminal records
3 check is being conducted shall be responsible for the payment of the costs of said criminal records
4 check. The Rhode Island state police or the Rhode Island department of attorney general, as
5 applicable, shall send the results of such criminal records check to the Rhode Island lottery. Once
6 said results are sent to and received by the Rhode Island lottery, the Rhode Island state police and
7 the Rhode Island department of attorney general shall promptly destroy said fingerprint record(s).
8 On or before February 1, 2011, the agency shall adopt rules and regulations establishing criteria to
9 be used in determining whether based upon a criminal records check an application will be
10 approved.

11 (c) Before issuing any license to a lottery sales agent the director shall consider:

12 (1) The financial responsibility and security of the person and his or her business or
13 activity;

14 (2) The accessibility of his or her place of business or activity to the public;

15 (3) The sufficiency of existing licensed agents to serve the public interest;

16 (4) The volume of expected sales by the applicant;

17 (5) Any other factors pertaining to the public interest, convenience or trust.

18 (d) The director shall refuse to grant or shall suspend, pending a hearing before the division,
19 or recommend a revocation of a license if the applicant or licensee:

20 (1) Has been convicted of a felony, ~~or any crime involving moral turpitude;~~

21 (2) Has been engaging in gambling as a significant source of income;

22 (3) Has been convicted of violating any gambling statutes;

23 (4) Has been convicted of fraud or misrepresentation in any connection;

24 (5) Has been found to have violated any rule, regulation, or order of the state lottery
25 division.

26 The license of an agent shall be suspended by the director for any charge which may result
27 in a conviction for conduct prescribed in subdivisions (d)(1) -- (d)(5); which suspension shall be
28 effective until a final judicial determination.

29 (e) The director shall refuse to grant, or shall suspend, pending a hearing before the
30 division, or recommend revocation of a license if the applicant or licensee is a corporation:

31 (1) Any of whose directors, officers, or controlling shareholders have been found guilty of
32 any of the activities specified in subsection (d);

33 (2) In which it appears to the director of lotteries that due to the experience, character, or
34 general fitness of any director, officer, or controlling shareholder, the granting of a license as a

1 lottery sales agent would be inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, or trust;

2 (3) Not the owner or lessee of the business at which it will conduct a lottery sales agency
3 pursuant to the license applied for, or that any person, firm, association, or corporation other than
4 the applicant shares or will share in the profits of the applicant, other than receiving dividends as a
5 shareholder, or will participate in the management of the affairs of the applicant.

6 (f) Every holder of a license as a lottery sales agent shall renew the license annually
7 pursuant to the rules and regulations of the division. Licensees shall pay to the division a fee to be
8 determined by the director upon receipt or renewal of a license.

9 (g) Whenever requested by the director, the division of criminal identification of the
10 department of the attorney general, the superintendent of state police, any superintendent or chief
11 of police or sergeant of any city or town, shall furnish all information on convictions, arrests and
12 present investigations concerning any person who is an applicant for a license or who is a licensee
13 of the state lottery.

14 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person licensed as provided in this
15 chapter is authorized and empowered to act as a lottery sales agent.

16 (i) Every licensed sales agent authorized pursuant to this section and every licensed, video-
17 lottery retailer authorized by chapter 61.2 of this title shall keep conspicuously posted on his or her
18 premises the name and telephone number of a council on problem gambling recognized by an
19 appropriate authority within state government or within the professional field of addiction disorders
20 and a statement of its availability to offer assistance. The lottery division shall supply each licensee
21 with the required notice.

22 SECTION 27. Sections 45-20-1 and 45-20-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-20
23 entitled "Appeals from Police and Fire Departments" are hereby amended to read as follows:

24 **45-20-1. Petition for judicial review of removal of fire fighter.**

25 (a) Any fire fighter or fire fighters, jointly or severally aggrieved by any decision of the
26 bureau of police and fire or any similar department, board or bureau of a city or town having control
27 of the fire department of the city or town, which decision orders the removal of the person from
28 membership in the fire department based on criminal charges ~~of moral turpitude~~, may present, to
29 the superior court of the state of Rhode Island for the county in which the city or town is located, a
30 verified petition stating that the decision is illegal in whole or in part and specifying the grounds of
31 the illegality. The petition shall be presented to the court within thirty (30) days after the decision
32 of the department, board, or bureau.

33 (b) Upon the presentation of the petition, the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed
34 to the department, board, or bureau to review its decision, and shall prescribe in the unit the time

1 authorized which a return to the unit must be made, which shall be not less than twenty (20) days
2 and may be extended by the court.

3 (c) The allowance of the writ does not stay the effect of the decision.

4 **45-20-1.1. Petition for judicial review of disciplinary action against police officers.**

5 (a) Any police officer or police officers, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of
6 the bureau of police and fire, or any similar department, board, or bureau of a city or town having
7 control of the police department, or any other duly constituted authority within the police
8 department of the city or town, which decision orders the dismissal, reduction in rank, suspension,
9 fine, performance of extra hours of duty, loss of seniority rights, transfer with or without a reduction
10 in pay, or reprimand, and the decision is based on charges involving ~~moral turpitude or~~ violation
11 of departmental regulations, may appeal the decision to the superior court of the state of Rhode
12 Island for the county in which the city or town is located; provided, that no appeal is allowed unless
13 all administrative remedies available under the municipal charter have been exhausted; and,
14 provided, further, that an appeal does not stay the operation of the decision. Upon appeal, the police
15 officer or police officers are entitled to a trial de novo before a justice of the superior court without
16 a jury.

17 (b) The superior court may uphold the decision, reverse the decision, restore the police
18 officer to the officer's former rank, revoke the suspension, reduce the penalty, negate the transfer,
19 or allow a transfer without loss of pay. If the decision is reversed or modified by the superior court,
20 the police officer or police officers shall, to the extent that the decision is reversed or modified, be
21 reimbursed monetarily or by compensatory time off for all loss of pay and/or extra duty hours
22 performed.

23 SECTION 28. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

1 This act would delete as a cause for refusal to issue a license to accountants, private security
2 guards, engineers, land surveyors, veterinarians, podiatrists, chiropractors, dentists and dental
3 hygienists, medical personnel, acupuncturists and those practicing oriental medicine, occupational
4 therapists, speech pathologists and audiologists, hearing aid dealers and fitters, landscape
5 architects, physicians assistants, cesspool designers, athletic trainers, telephone sales solicitors,
6 home inspectors, chemical dependency professionals, uniform athlete agents, medical waste
7 generators, transporters, explosive technicians and dealers, off track betting employees, state lottery
8 sales agents, and police and fire personnel, the words crime of moral turpitude.

9 This act would take effect upon passage.

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