

1 Introduced by Representative Sweaney of Windsor

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Professions and occupations; Office of Professional Regulation

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
6 miscellaneous amendments regarding professions and occupations regulated by
7 the Office of Professional Regulation.

8 An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of
9 Professional Regulation

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 * * * General Provisions * * *

12 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

13 § 125. FEES

14 (a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board may charge
15 the following fees:

16 (1) ~~Late renewal penalty, \$25.00 for a renewal submitted less than 30~~
17 ~~days late. Thereafter, a board may increase the late renewal penalty by \$5.00~~
18 ~~for every additional month or fraction of a month, provided that the total~~
19 ~~penalty for a late renewal shall not exceed \$100.00. This penalty shall not~~
20 ~~preclude disciplinary action for practicing without a valid license.~~

- 1 ~~(2) Reinstatement of revoked or suspended license, \$20.00.~~
- 2 ~~(3) Replacement of license, \$20.00.~~
- 3 ~~(4) Verification of license, \$20.00.~~
- 4 ~~(5)~~(2) An examination fee established by the Secretary, which shall be
- 5 no greater than the costs associated with examinations.
- 6 ~~(6) [Repealed.]~~
- 7 (3) Reinstatement fees for expired licenses pursuant to section 127
- 8 (unauthorized practice) of this title.
- 9 * * *
- 10 Sec 2. 3 V.S.A. § 127 is amended to read:
- 11 § 127. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE
- 12 * * *
- 13 (d)(1) A person whose license has expired for not more than one biennial
- 14 period may reinstate the license by meeting renewal requirements for the
- 15 profession, paying the profession’s renewal fee, and paying the following
- 16 nondisciplinary reinstatement penalty:
- 17 (A) if reinstatement occurs within 30 days after the expiration date,
- 18 \$100.00; or
- 19 (B) if reinstatement occurs more than 30 days after the expiration
- 20 date, an amount equal to the renewal fee increased by \$40.00 for every

1 additional month or fraction of a month, provided the total penalty shall not
2 exceed \$1,500.00.

3 (2) Fees assessed under this subsection shall be deposited into the
4 Regulatory Fee Fund and credited to the appropriate fund for the profession of
5 the reinstating licensee.

6 (3) A licensee seeking reinstatement may submit a petition for relief
7 from the reinstatement penalty, which a board may grant only upon a finding
8 of exceptional circumstances or extreme hardship to the licensee.

9 (4) Practice by a licensee with an expired license that continues for more
10 than two years, or practicing at any time when the licensee knew or should
11 have known the license was expired, may be prosecuted by the State as
12 unauthorized practice under this section or as unprofessional conduct pursuant
13 to subdivision 129a(a)(3) of this title.

14 (e) A person practicing a licensed profession without authority shall not
15 institute any proceedings in this ~~state~~ State for the enforcement of any right or
16 obligation if at the time of the creation of the right or obligation the unlicensed
17 person was acting without authority.

18 ~~(e)~~(f) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to any other
19 remedies or penalties for unauthorized practice established by law.

1 Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 129 is amended to read:

2 § 129. POWERS OF BOARDS; DISCIPLINE PROCESS

3 * * *

4 (f)(1) A board may appoint a hearing officer, who shall be an attorney
5 admitted to practice in this State, to conduct a hearing ~~which~~ that would
6 otherwise be heard by the board. A hearing officer appointed under this
7 subsection may administer oaths and exercise the powers of the board properly
8 incidental to the conduct of the hearing.

9 (2) When a hearing is conducted by a hearing officer, the officer shall
10 report findings of fact and conclusions of law to the board. The report shall be
11 made within 60 days of the conclusion of the hearing unless the board grants
12 an extension. The provisions of section 811 of this title regarding proposal for
13 decision shall not apply to the hearing officer report.

14 (3) The board may take additional evidence and may accept, reject, or
15 modify the findings and conclusions of the hearing officer. Judgment on the
16 findings shall be rendered by the board.

17 * * *

18 Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 131 is amended to read:

19 § 131. ACCESSIBILITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCIPLINARY
20 MATTERS

21 * * *

1 (b) All meetings and hearings of boards shall be ~~open to the public, except~~
2 ~~in accord with 1 V.S.A. § 313~~ subject to the Open Meeting Law.

3 * * *

4 (d) Neither the Secretary nor the Office shall make public any other
5 information regarding disciplinary unprofessional conduct complaints,
6 investigations, proceedings or, and related records except the information
7 required to be released under this section.

8 (e) ~~A licensee or applicant shall have the right to inspect and copy all~~
9 ~~information in the possession of the Office pertaining to the licensee or~~
10 ~~applicant, except investigatory files which have not resulted in charges of~~
11 ~~unprofessional conduct and attorney work product~~ The discovery rules for
12 conduct complaints shall apply to and govern the provision of investigatory
13 files to those charged with unprofessional conduct.

14 (f) ~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this section, “disciplinary action” means
15 an action based on a finding of unprofessional conduct that suspends, revokes,
16 limits, or conditions a license in any way, ~~and includes~~ including
17 administrative penalties, warnings, and reprimands.

18 (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the disclosure of any information
19 regarding disciplinary unprofessional conduct complaints pursuant to an order
20 from a court of competent jurisdiction, or to state State or federal law
21 enforcement agencies, the Department of Health, the Department of

1 Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, or the Department of Financial
2 Regulation in the course of their investigations, provided the agency or
3 department agrees to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the
4 information as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

5 Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 133 is added to read:

6 § 133. BUSINESS REGISTRATION

7 When professional services are required by law to be performed in or by a
8 business entity registered with the Office, the business entity shall:

9 (1) register with the Corporations Division of the Office of the Secretary
10 of State, if required by law; and

11 (2) separately register with the Office each name under which the
12 business entity will conduct business, register licensees, and advertise in
13 Vermont.

14 * * * Property Inspectors * * *

15 Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 1091 is amended to read:

16 § 1091. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE

17 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a property inspector shall meet the
18 following minimum requirements:

19 * * *

20 ~~(4) Complete a minimum number of property inspections incidental to a~~
21 ~~program of study in a property inspection training program administered by an~~

1 ~~independent, nationally recognized organization. The Director shall identify~~
2 ~~by rule the minimum number of inspections and acceptable organizations~~
3 ~~required by this subdivision (4). [Repealed.]~~

4 ~~(5)(b) Provide proof~~ Proof of certification issued by an independent,
5 nationally recognized organization that provides certification for property
6 inspectors satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth in subdivisions (a)(2)
7 and (3) of this section. The Director shall identify by rule acceptable
8 organizations for certification. The Director shall issue a license to practice to
9 any person who in addition to the requirements of subdivision (a)(1) of this
10 section is certified by an acceptable organization identified by the Director.

11 * * * Nursing * * *

12 Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 1 is amended to read:

13 Subchapter 1. ~~Registered and Licensed Practical Nursing~~

14 General Provisions

15 § 1571. PURPOSE AND EFFECT

16 In order to safeguard the life and health of the people of this ~~state~~ State, ~~no a~~
17 person shall not practice; or offer to practice; registered or practical nursing or
18 as a nursing assistant unless ~~currently~~ licensed under this chapter.

19 § 1572. DEFINITIONS

20 As used in this chapter:

21 * * *

1 (3)~~(A)~~ “Licensed practical nursing” means a directed scope of nursing
2 practice ~~which that~~ includes, but is not limited to:

3 ~~(i)(A) Contributing~~ contributing to the assessment of the health status
4 of individuals and groups;

5 ~~(ii)(B) Participating~~ participating in the development and
6 modification of the strategy of care;

7 ~~(iii)(C) Implementing~~ implementing the appropriate aspects of the
8 strategy of care as defined by the ~~board.~~ Board;

9 ~~(iv)(D) Maintaining~~ maintaining safe and effective nursing care
10 rendered directly or indirectly;

11 ~~(v)(E) Participating~~ participating in the evaluation of responses to
12 interventions;

13 ~~(vi)(F) Delegating~~ delegating nursing interventions that may be
14 performed by others and that do not conflict with this chapter; and

15 ~~(B)(G) A licensed practical nurse functions~~ functioning at the
16 direction of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed
17 physician, or licensed dentist in the performance of activities delegated by that
18 health care professional.

19 (4) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means a licensed
20 registered nurse authorized to practice in this ~~state~~ State who, because of
21 specialized education and experience, is ~~endorsed~~ licensed and authorized to

1 perform acts of medical diagnosis and to prescribe medical, therapeutic, or
2 corrective measures under administrative rules adopted by the ~~board~~ Board.

3 (5) “License” means a current authorization permitting the practice of
4 nursing as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or advanced practice
5 registered nurse, or the practice as a nursing assistant.

6 § 1573. VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

7 * * *

8 (c) Each member of the ~~board~~ Board shall be a citizen of the United States,
9 and a resident of this ~~state~~ State.

10 (1) The ~~registered nurse~~ licensed members shall have the following in
11 their respective categories of licensure:

12 (A) ~~Hold a~~ An active license to practice ~~registered nursing~~ in
13 Vermont;

14 (B) ~~Have at~~ At least five years’ licensed experience ~~in the practice of~~
15 ~~registered nursing~~. Three of these five years shall have been immediately
16 preceding appointment.

17 (2) ~~The licensed practical nurse members shall:~~

18 (A) ~~Hold a license to practice practical nursing in Vermont;~~

19 (B) ~~Have at least five years’ experience in the practice of practical~~
20 ~~nursing. Three of these five years shall have been immediately preceding~~
21 ~~appointment.~~

1 (2) ~~Conduct business at any meeting only if five members are present to~~
2 ~~constitute a quorum; and keep a record of its proceedings which shall be a~~
3 ~~public record; Adopt rules necessary to perform its duties under this chapter.~~

4 (3) ~~Prescribe~~ Adopt rules setting standards for educational approval of
5 nursing assistant and nursing education programs and approve such nursing
6 education programs in Vermont as meet the requirements of this chapter and
7 board rules; including all clinical facilities. The Board may require
8 reimbursement for actual and necessary costs incurred for site surveys.

9 (4) Adopt rules for medication nursing assistant education and
10 competency evaluation programs and survey and approve those programs that
11 meet the rules.

12 (A) After an opportunity for a hearing, the Board may deny or
13 withdraw approval or take lesser action when a program fails to meet the rules
14 requirements.

15 (B) The Board may reinstate a program whose approval has been
16 denied or withdrawn when the Board is satisfied that deficiencies have been
17 remedied and the requirements have been met.

18 (5) ~~Establish~~ Adopt rules setting standards required for registration and
19 licensure of individuals for the practice of as a nursing, including the assistant,
20 practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced practice registered nurse, and for
21 endorsement of advanced practice registered those nurses and those in special

1 areas of nursing practice ~~which~~ that require additional education and
2 experience;

3 ~~(5)~~(6) Examine, ~~register,~~ license, and renew the licenses of duly
4 qualified applicants and keep a record of ~~all persons registered by this state,~~ all
5 persons currently licensed as nursing assistants, practical nurses, registered
6 nurses, and ~~practical~~ advanced practice registered nurses, ~~and all persons~~
7 ~~meeting standards which may be established in defined special areas of nursing~~
8 ~~practice;~~

9 ~~(6)~~(7) Adopt rules setting active practice requirements for licensure and
10 renewal.

11 ~~(8)~~ Provide standards Adopt rules for and approve education programs
12 for the benefit of nurses who are reentering practice following a lapse of five
13 or more years;

14 ~~(7)~~(9) Investigate complaints ~~and charges~~ of unauthorized practice; or
15 unprofessional conduct; or incompetency against any person and take proper
16 action under section 1582 or 1584 of this ~~title~~ chapter, as the case may be;

17 ~~(8)~~ ~~Compel the attendance of witnesses and the furnishing of evidentiary~~
18 ~~material in connection with a hearing by subpoenas issued by the executive~~
19 ~~officer of the board with the approval of the board; and~~

20 ~~(9)~~(10) Adopt rules ~~necessary to perform its duties under this~~
21 ~~subchapter,~~ and may adopt rules establishing a program to serve as an

1 alternative to the disciplinary process for nurses and nursing assistants with
2 chemical dependencies or other professional practice issues as designated by
3 the ~~board~~ Board.

4 (b) In consultation with the Board, the Director of the Office of
5 Professional Regulation may employ an Executive Director or the Board and
6 contract for such persons as may be necessary to carry out the work of the
7 Board.

8 § 1575. ~~STAFF~~

9 ~~With the approval of the board, the director of the office of professional~~
10 ~~regulation may employ or contract for such persons as may be necessary to~~
11 ~~carry on the work of the board. [Repealed.]~~

12 § 1575a. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

13 (a) An applicant for licensure under this chapter shall provide appropriate
14 identifying information including fingerprints for a State and national
15 background check.

16 (b) The Board shall obtain from the Vermont Criminal Information Center:

17 (1) information regarding criminal records of any applicant;

18 (2) information regarding criminal records from all states where the
19 Board has reason to believe an applicant has resided or been employed; and

20 (3) information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the
21 criminal record of any applicant.

1 (c) An applicant shall bear all costs associated with criminal record checks.

2 § 1576. ~~REGISTERED NURSE AND PRACTICAL NURSE~~

3 ~~REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE~~

4 ~~(a) Qualifications of applicants. An applicant for registration and a license~~
5 ~~to practice registered or practical nursing shall submit to the Board evidence~~
6 ~~deemed satisfactory to it that the applicant has completed all requirements in~~
7 ~~an approved nursing education program preparing individuals for the practice~~
8 ~~of either registered or practical nursing.~~

9 ~~(b) Registration and licensure by examination.~~

10 ~~(1) The applicant shall be required to pass an examination in such~~
11 ~~subjects as the Board considers necessary to determine the ability of the~~
12 ~~applicant to practice registered or practical nursing.~~

13 ~~(2) Upon passing the required examination, the Board shall register and~~
14 ~~issue to the applicant a current license to practice as a registered nurse (R.N.)~~
15 ~~or a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.).~~

16 ~~(3) The Board shall hold at least one examination annually for registered~~
17 ~~nurse candidates and one for practical nurse candidates at such place and at~~
18 ~~such time as the Board shall determine.~~

19 ~~(4) Any qualified applicant shall be entitled to reexaminations.~~

20 ~~(e) Registration and licensure by endorsement. The Board shall register~~
21 ~~and issue a current license to practice registered or practical nursing to an~~

1 applicant who has been duly licensed by examination as a registered nurse or a
2 practical nurse under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country if
3 the applicant meets the qualifications required in this State and has previously
4 achieved passing scores on the licensing examination required in this State or
5 its equivalent as determined by the Board, and has met active practice
6 requirements established by the Board by rule.

7 ~~(d) Temporary licenses. The Board may issue a temporary license to~~
8 ~~practice nursing for a period not to exceed 90 days to a registered nurse or~~
9 ~~licensed practical nurse currently licensed in another jurisdiction of the United~~
10 ~~States and who has applied for licensure by endorsement in accordance with~~
11 ~~the rules of the Board.~~

12 ~~(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and any other provision~~
13 ~~of law, a nurse who holds an unrestricted license in all jurisdictions in which~~
14 ~~the nurse is currently licensed, who certifies to the Vermont Board of Nursing~~
15 ~~that he or she will limit his or her practice in Vermont to providing pro bono~~
16 ~~services at a free or reduced fee clinic in Vermont and who meets the criteria~~
17 ~~of the Board, shall be licensed by the Board within 60 days of the licensee's~~
18 ~~certification without further examination, interview, fee, or any other~~
19 ~~requirement for Board licensure. The nurse shall file with the Board, on forms~~
20 ~~provided by the Board and based on criteria developed by the Board,~~
21 ~~information on nursing qualifications, professional discipline, criminal record,~~

1 ~~malpractice claims, or any other such information as the Board may require. A~~
2 ~~license granted under this subsection shall authorize the licensee to practice~~
3 ~~nursing on a voluntary basis in Vermont. [Repealed.]~~

4 § 1577. FEES

5 Applicants and persons regulated under this ~~subchapter~~ chapter shall pay
6 the following fees:

- 7 (1) Nursing Assistants
- 8 (A) Application \$ 20.00
- 9 (B) Biennial renewal \$ 45.00
- 10 (2) Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses
- 11 (A) Application \$ 60.00
- 12 ~~(2)(B)~~ Registered nurse application by endorsement \$ 150.00
- 13 ~~(3)(C)~~ Biennial renewal \$ 140.00
- 14 ~~(4)~~ Limited temporary license \$ ~~25.00~~
- 15 ~~(5)(3)~~ Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- 16 (A) Initial endorsement of advanced practice
17 registered nurses \$ 75.00
- 18 ~~(6)(B)~~ Biennial renewal of advanced practice
19 registered nurses \$ 75.00

1 § 1578. ~~EXISTING LICENSES~~

2 ~~Any person registered or licensed to practice registered or practical nursing~~
3 ~~by the board on or before July 1, 1980 shall retain all rights and privileges~~
4 ~~granted thereunder as if registered or licensed under this chapter. [Repealed.]~~

5 § 1579. RENEWAL ISSUANCE AND DURATION OF LICENSE

6 LICENSES

7 (a) Licenses and endorsements shall be renewed by the board for periods of
8 up to every two years on a schedule determined by the Office of Professional
9 Regulation.

10 (b) ~~Any registrant who has held a valid license and practiced nursing within~~
11 ~~the past five years may apply for renewal without further examination or~~
12 ~~qualifying requirements not otherwise imposed on current licensees.~~

13 (c) ~~All applicants for renewal of a license to practice shall have practiced~~
14 ~~nursing within the last five years as defined in section 1572 of this title or~~
15 ~~comply with the requirements for updating knowledge and skills as defined by~~
16 ~~board rules.~~

17 * * *

18 § 1581. NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

19 (a) ~~The board shall, by rule, establish standards for the creation and~~
20 ~~conduct of nursing education programs, including all clinical facilities used for~~

1 ~~learning experiences. The board shall survey programs and approve those~~
2 ~~programs which meet the requirements of this subchapter and the board rules.~~

3 ~~(b) A postsecondary educational institution within the state of Vermont~~
4 ~~desiring to conduct a nursing education program shall apply to the board and~~
5 ~~submit evidence that its nursing program is designed to meet the standards~~
6 ~~established by the board. If upon investigation, the board finds that the~~
7 ~~program meets the established standards for nursing education programs, it~~
8 ~~shall approve the applicant program.~~

9 ~~(c) The board shall periodically survey and evaluate approved nursing~~
10 ~~education programs and shall publish a list of approved programs. A nursing~~
11 ~~education program shall reimburse the board for actual and necessary costs~~
12 ~~incurred for site surveys.~~

13 ~~(d) The board may deny or withdraw approval or take such action as it~~
14 ~~deems necessary when nursing education programs fail to meet the standards~~
15 ~~established by the board, provided that such action shall be in accordance with~~
16 ~~this chapter, board rules, and the Administrative Procedure Act.~~

17 ~~(e) Reinstatement of approval. The board shall reinstate approval of a~~
18 ~~nursing education program based on satisfactory evidence that the program~~
19 ~~meets the standards established by the board. [Repealed.]~~

1 § 1582. REGULATORY AUTHORITY; UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

2 (a) The ~~board~~ Board may deny an application for ~~registration~~, licensure, or
3 ~~relicensure~~ renewal, or reinstatement; revoke or suspend any license to practice
4 ~~nursing~~ issued by it; or discipline or in other ways condition the practice of a
5 ~~registrant~~ an applicant or licensee upon due notice and opportunity for hearing
6 ~~in compliance with the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25~~ if the person engages
7 in the following conduct or the conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a:

8 (1) ~~Has made~~ making or ~~caused~~ causing to be made a false, fraudulent,
9 or forged statement or representation in procuring or attempting to procure
10 registration or renew a license ~~to practice nursing~~;

11 (2) ~~Whether or not committed in this state, has been convicted of a~~
12 ~~crime related to the practice of nursing or a felony which evinces an unfitness~~
13 ~~to practice nursing~~;

14 (3) ~~Is unable to practice nursing competently by reason of any cause~~;

15 (4) ~~Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this~~
16 ~~chapter~~;

17 (5) ~~Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming~~
18 ~~drugs~~;

19 (6) ~~Has a mental, emotional, or physical disability, the nature of which~~
20 ~~interferes with ability to practice nursing competently~~ diverting or attempting
21 to divert drugs or equipment or supplies for unauthorized use;

1 ~~(7)~~(3) Engages engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive,
2 defraud, or harm the public;

3 ~~(8)~~(4) ~~Has willfully omitted~~ willfully failing to file or record, or ~~has~~
4 willfully ~~impeded~~ impeding or ~~obstructed a~~ obstructing filing or recording, or
5 ~~has induced~~ inducing another person to omit to file or record medical reports
6 ~~required by law~~;

7 ~~(9)~~(5) fraudulent or deceitful submission of any information or records
8 to the Board;

9 (6) leaving a nursing assignment without properly advising appropriate
10 personnel;

11 (7) violating confidentiality by inappropriately revealing information or
12 knowledge about a patient or client;

13 (8) ~~Has knowingly aided or abetted~~ knowingly aiding or abetting a
14 health care provider who is not legally practicing within the ~~state~~ State in the
15 provision of health care services;

16 ~~(10)~~(9) ~~Has permitted his or her~~ permitting one's name or license to be
17 used by a person, group, or corporation when not actually in charge of or
18 responsible for the treatment given;

19 ~~(11)~~(10) ~~Has failed~~ failing to comply with the patient bill of rights
20 provisions of 18 V.S.A. § 1852 or other statutes governing the profession; ~~or~~

1 ~~(12)~~(11) ~~Has committed any sexual~~ sexual misconduct that exploits the
2 provider-patient relationship, including sexual contact with a patient,
3 surrogates, or key third parties;

4 (12) abusing or neglecting a patient or misappropriating patient
5 property;

6 (13) failing to report to the Board any violation of this chapter or of the
7 Board's rules; or

8 (14) failing to take appropriate action to safeguard a patient from
9 incompetent health care.

10 ~~(b) Procedure. The board shall establish a discipline process based on this~~
11 ~~chapter and the Administrative Procedure Act.~~

12 ~~(c) Appeals. Any person or institution aggrieved by any action of the board~~
13 ~~under this section or section 1581 of this title may appeal as provided in~~
14 ~~3 V.S.A. § 130a.~~

15 ~~(d)~~ A person shall not be liable in a civil action for damages resulting from
16 the good faith reporting of information to the ~~board~~ Board about incompetent,
17 unprofessional, or unlawful conduct of a ~~nurse~~ licensee.

18 § 1583. ~~EXCEPTIONS~~ EXEMPTIONS

19 This chapter does not prohibit:

20 (1) ~~The furnishing of~~ Rendering assistance in the case of an emergency
21 or disaster.

1 (1) ~~have~~ Have a degree or certificate from a Vermont graduate nursing
2 program approved by the ~~board~~ Board or a United States graduate program
3 approved by a state or a national accrediting agency that includes a curriculum
4 substantially equivalent to Vermont programs approved by the ~~board~~ Board.

5 The educational program shall meet the educational standards set by the
6 national accrediting board and the national certifying board. Programs shall
7 include a supervised clinical component in the role and population focus of the
8 applicant's certification. The program shall prepare nurses to practice
9 advanced nursing in a role as a nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife,
10 certified nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric or mental
11 health nursing and shall include, at a minimum, graduate level courses in:

12 (A) advanced pharmacotherapeutics;

13 (B) advanced patient assessment; and

14 (C) advanced pathophysiology;.

15 (2) ~~hold a degree or certificate from an accredited graduate-level~~
16 ~~educational program preparing the applicant for one of the four recognized~~
17 ~~APRN roles described in subdivision (1) of this section and have educational~~
18 ~~preparation consistent with the applicant's certification, role, population focus,~~
19 ~~and specialty practice; and~~

1 ~~(3) hold~~ Hold current advanced nursing certification in a role and
2 population focus granted by a national certifying organization recognized by
3 the ~~board~~ Board.

4 § 1611a. FEE WAIVER; PRO BONO PRACTICE

5 (a) An advanced practice registered nurse who holds an unrestricted license
6 in all jurisdictions in which the nurse is currently licensed, who certifies to the
7 Board that he or she will limit his or her practice in Vermont to providing pro
8 bono services at a free or reduced fee clinic, and who meets the requirements
9 for licensure shall be licensed by the Board without payment of the licensing
10 application fee.

11 (b) A license granted under this section shall authorize the licensee to
12 practice advanced practice registered nursing on a voluntary basis in Vermont.

13 § 1612. PRACTICE GUIDELINES

14 (a) APRN licensees who intend to or are engaged in clinical practice as an
15 APRN shall submit for review individual practice guidelines and receive ~~board~~
16 Board approval of the practice guidelines. Practice guidelines shall reflect
17 current standards of advanced nursing practice specific to the APRN's role,
18 population focus, and specialty.

19 (b) Licensees shall submit for review individual practice guidelines and
20 receive ~~board~~ Board approval of the practice guidelines:

21 (1) prior to initial employment;

1 Sec. 10. REPEAL

2 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 4 (sexual assault nurse examiners)
3 (§§ 1621–1624) is repealed.

4 Sec. 11. 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 3 is added to read:

5 Subchapter 3. Registered Nurses and Practical Nurses

6 § 1621. REGISTERED NURSE LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

7 To be eligible for licensure as a registered nurse by examination, an
8 applicant shall complete:

9 (1) an approved United States registered nursing education program
10 meeting requirements set by the Board by rule; and

11 (2) examinations as determined by the Board;

12 § 1622. REGISTERED NURSE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

13 To be eligible for licensure as a registered nurse by endorsement, an
14 applicant shall:

15 (1) hold a current license to practice registered nursing in another United
16 States jurisdiction based on education in a United States nursing program; and

17 (2) meet practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

18 § 1623. LICENSURE FOR REGISTERED NURSES EDUCATED

19 OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

20 To be eligible for licensure under this chapter, a registered nurse applicant
21 who was educated outside the United States shall:

1 (1) hold a current registered nurse license from a country outside the

2 United States;

3 (2) complete secondary education;

4 (3) graduate from a registered nursing education program meeting the
5 requirements of rules set by the Board;

6 (4) demonstrate English language proficiency, if the nursing education
7 program was conducted in a language other than English; and

8 (5) complete examinations as determined by the Board.

9 § 1624. REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE RENEWAL

10 To renew a license, a registered nurse shall meet active practice
11 requirements set by the Board by rule.

12 § 1625. PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

13 To be eligible for licensure as a practical nurse by examination, an applicant
14 shall:

15 (1) complete an approved United States practical nursing education
16 program meeting requirements set by the Board by rule; and

17 (2) complete examinations as determined by the Board;

18 § 1626. PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

19 To be eligible for licensure as a practical nurse by endorsement, an
20 applicant shall:

- 1 (1) hold a current license to practice practical nursing in another United
2 States jurisdiction based on education in a United States nursing program; and
3 (2) meet practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

4 § 1627. LICENSURE FOR PRACTICAL NURSES EDUCATED OUTSIDE
5 THE UNITED STATES

6 To be eligible for licensure under this chapter, a practical nurse applicant
7 who was educated outside the United States shall:

- 8 (1) hold a current practical nurse license from a country outside the
9 United States;
10 (2) complete secondary education;
11 (3) graduate from a practical nursing education program meeting the
12 requirements of rules set by the Board;
13 (4) demonstrate English language proficiency if the nursing education
14 program was conducted in a language other than English; and
15 (5) complete examinations as determined by the Board.

16 § 1628. PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSE RENEWAL

17 To renew a license, a practical nurse shall meet active practice requirements
18 set by the Board by rule.

19 § 1629. FEE WAIVER; PRO BONO PRACTICE

20 (a) A nurse who holds an unrestricted license in all jurisdictions in which
21 the nurse is currently licensed, who certifies to the Board that he or she will

1 limit his or her practice in Vermont to providing pro bono services at a free or
2 reduced fee clinic, and who meets the requirements for licensure shall be
3 licensed by the Board without payment of the licensing application fee.

4 (b) A license granted under this section shall authorize the licensee to
5 practice nursing on a voluntary basis in Vermont.

6 Sec. 12. 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 5 is added to read:

7 Subchapter 5. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

8 § 5431. DEFINITION

9 As used in this subchapter, “SANE” means a sexual assault nurse examiner.

10 § 5432. SANE BOARD

11 (a) The SANE Board is created for the purpose of regulating sexual assault
12 nurse examiners.

13 (b) The SANE Board shall be composed of the following members:

14 (1) the Executive Director of the Vermont State Nurses Association or
15 designee;

16 (2) the President of the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health
17 Systems;

18 (3) the Director of the Vermont Forensic Laboratory or designee;

19 (4) the Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual
20 Violence or designee;

1 (5) an attorney with experience prosecuting sexual assault crimes,
2 appointed by the Attorney General;

3 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim
4 Services or designee;

5 (7) a law enforcement officer assigned to one of Vermont’s special units
6 of investigation, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

7 (8) a law enforcement officer employed by a municipal police
8 department, appointed by the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal
9 Justice Training Council;

10 (9) three sexual assault nurse examiners, appointed by the Attorney
11 General;

12 (10) a physician whose practice includes the care of victims of sexual
13 assault, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society;

14 (11) a pediatrician whose practice includes the care of victims of sexual
15 assault, appointed by the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of
16 Pediatrics;

17 (12) the Coordinator of the Vermont Victim Assistance Program or
18 designee;

19 (13) the President of the Vermont Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers
20 or designee;

21 (14) the Chair of the Vermont State Board of Nursing or designee; and

1 (15) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee.

2 § 5433. SANE PROGRAM CLINICAL COORDINATOR

3 A grant program shall be established by the Vermont Center for Crime
4 Victim Services, subject to available funding, to fund a clinical coordinator
5 position for the purpose of staffing the SANE program. The position shall be
6 contracted through the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual
7 Violence. The Clinical Coordinator shall consult with the SANE Board in
8 performing the following duties:

9 (1) overseeing the recruitment and retention of SANEs in the State of
10 Vermont;

11 (2) administering a statewide training program, including:

12 (A) the initial SANE certification training;

13 (B) ongoing training to ensure currency of practice for SANEs; and

14 (C) advanced training programs as needed;

15 (3) providing consultation and technical assistance to SANEs and

16 hospitals regarding the standardized sexual assault protocol; and

17 (4) providing training and outreach to criminal justice and

18 community-based agencies as needed.

19 § 5434. SANE BOARD DUTIES

20 (a) A person licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28 (nursing) may obtain a
21 specialized certification as a sexual assault nurse examiner if he or she

1 demonstrates compliance with the requirements for specialized certification as
2 established by the SANE Board by rule.

3 (b) The SANE Board shall adopt the following by rule:

4 (1) educational requirements for obtaining specialized certification as a
5 sexual assault nurse examiner and statewide standards for the provision of
6 education;

7 (2) continuing education requirements and clinical experience necessary
8 for maintenance of the SANE specialized certification;

9 (3) a standardized sexual assault protocol and kit to be used by all
10 physicians and hospitals in this State when providing forensic examinations of
11 victims of alleged sexual offenses;

12 (4) a system of monitoring for compliance; and

13 (5) processes for investigating complaints, revoking certification, and
14 appealing decisions of the Board.

15 (c) The SANE Board may investigate complaints against a sexual assault
16 nurse examiner and may revoke certification as appropriate.

17 Sec. 13. RECODIFICATION

18 (a) 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 4 (sexual assault nurse examiners) is
19 recodified as 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 5. During statutory revision,
20 the Office of Legislative Council shall revise accordingly in the Vermont

1 Statutes Annotated any references to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 4 or the
2 statutes therein.

3 (b) Any references in session law and adopted rules to 26 V.S.A.
4 chapter 28, subchapter 4 as previously codified shall be deemed to refer to
5 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 5.

6 Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 4 is added to read:

7 Subchapter 4. Nursing Assistants

8 § 1641. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this subchapter:

10 (1) “Medication nursing assistant” means a licensed nursing
11 assistant who:

12 (A) is under the supervision of a nurse holding a currently valid
13 endorsement authorizing the delegation to the nursing assistant of tasks of
14 medication administration performed in a nursing home;

15 (B) has completed a Board-approved medication administration
16 education program and an examination as set forth by rules adopted by the
17 Board; and

18 (C) is endorsed by the Board and authorized to administer medication
19 in a nursing home.

20 (2) “Nursing assistant” means an individual who performs nursing or
21 nursing-related functions under the supervision of a licensed nurse.

1 (3) “Nursing or nursing-related functions” means nursing-related
2 activities as defined by rule, which include basic nursing and restorative duties
3 for which a nursing assistant is prepared by education and supervised practice.

4 § 1642. NURSING ASSISTANT LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

5 The Board may issue a license to practice as a nursing assistant to an
6 applicant who:

7 (1) is no less than 16 years of age;

8 (2) has completed an approved nursing assistant education program; and

9 (3) has successfully completed the competency examination.

10 § 1643. NURSING ASSISTANT LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

11 The Board may issue a license to practice as a nursing assistant to an
12 applicant who:

13 (1) is licensed or registered in another United States jurisdiction; and

14 (2) who has met the practice requirements set by the Board by rule.

15 § 1644. PROHIBITIONS; OFFENSES

16 (a) A person shall not use any letters, words, or insignia in connection with
17 the person’s name that indicate or imply that the person is a nursing assistant
18 unless the person is licensed in accordance with this subchapter.

19 (b) A person shall not practice nursing or nursing-related functions as
20 defined in section 1641 of this subchapter without being licensed by the Board.

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* * *

(b) A person violating any of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in ~~3 V.S.A. § 127(e)~~ 3 V.S.A. § 127.

Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. § 1791 is amended to read:

§ 1791. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD; QUALIFICATIONS; TERM OF OFFICE

* * *

(b)(1) Three members of the ~~board~~ Board shall be osteopathic physicians licensed and in good standing in this ~~state~~ State who are graduates of an accredited school of osteopathic medicine and who reside and have resided and actively practiced osteopathic medicine in this ~~state~~ State during the two years immediately preceding their appointments.

(2) Two members shall be public members. A public member shall not ~~be a member of any other health-related licensing board, nor~~ have a financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister in the activities regulated under this chapter, other than as a consumer or possible consumer of osteopathic medical services.

* * *

Sec. 17. 26 V.S.A. § 1792 is amended to read:

§ 1792. POWERS; DUTIES

* * *

- 1 (b) The ~~board~~ Board may:
- 2 (~~1~~) ~~Adopt~~ adopt rules necessary for the performance of its duties.
- 3 (~~2~~) ~~Issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses at any~~
- 4 ~~investigation or hearing.~~
- 5 (~~3~~) ~~Issue orders relating to discovery in the same manner as a judge~~
- 6 ~~under the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.~~

7 (~~e~~) ~~The board shall lack the power to condition, limit, or alter in any way~~

8 ~~the express terms of this chapter.~~

9 Sec. 18. 26 V.S.A. § 1830 is amended to read:

10 § 1830. APPLICATION

11 ~~To apply for licensure as an osteopathic physician a person shall apply to~~

12 ~~the board on a form furnished by the board. The application shall be~~

13 ~~accompanied by payment of the required fees and evidence of eligibility as~~

14 ~~requested by the board. [Repealed.]~~

15 Sec. 19. 26 V.S.A. § 1832a is amended to read:

16 § 1832a. LICENSURE WITHOUT EXAMINATION

17 * * *

18 (b) A person shall be entitled to licensure without examination if, at the

19 time of application, he or she produces satisfactory evidence of the following

20 and, in the judgment of the ~~board~~ Board, he or she is qualified in all respects

21 for a license:

1 (1) ~~Licensure~~ licensure in another ~~state~~ United States or Canadian
2 jurisdiction whose requirements are substantially equivalent to the
3 requirements of this chapter; and

4 (2) ~~The~~ the person has been granted a diploma by an accredited school
5 or college of osteopathic medicine.

6 (c) ~~Applicants for licensure under subsection (b) of this section may be~~
7 ~~required to appear for a personal interview before the board.~~ [Repealed.]

8 Sec. 20. 26 V.S.A. § 1834 is amended to read:

9 § 1834. LIMITED TEMPORARY LICENSE

10 (a) An applicant for a limited temporary license shall meet the following
11 requirements:

12 (1) ~~Have~~ have attained the age of majority; ~~;~~

13 (2) ~~Be~~ be a graduate of an accredited school or college of osteopathic
14 medicine; ~~;~~

15 (3) ~~Be~~ be appointed as an intern, resident, fellow, or medical officer in
16 an approved hospital or in a clinic which is affiliated with an approved
17 hospital, or in any hospital or institution maintained by the ~~state~~ State, or in
18 any clinic or outpatient clinic affiliated with or maintained by the ~~state~~.
19 State; and

20 (4) pass Parts 1 and 2 of the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical
21 Licensing Examination – USA (COMLEX) or Parts 1 and 2 of the United

1 States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or their successor or
2 equivalent examinations approved by the Board, unless the applicant is exempt
3 from all or a part of the examination under the provisions of section 1832 or
4 1832a of this chapter.

5 * * *

6 Sec. 21. 26 V.S.A. § 1836 is amended to read:

7 § 1836. BIENNIAL RENEWAL OF LICENSE; CONTINUING
8 EDUCATION

9 * * *

10 ~~(d) A lapsed license shall be reinstated upon payment of the biennial~~
11 ~~renewal fee, the late renewal penalty, and compliance with the other provisions~~
12 ~~of this section. [Repealed.]~~

13 Sec. 22. REPEAL

14 The following sections set forth in 26 V.S.A. chapter 33 (osteopathy) are
15 repealed:

16 (1) § 1837 (health maintenance organization; medical director);

17 (2) § 1841 (preliminary decisions);

18 (3) § 1843 (disciplinary action);

19 (4) § 1844 (appeal);

20 (5) § 1851 (license requirement);

21 (6) § 1852 (issuance of license);

1 (1) “Health care professional” means a physician licensed pursuant to
2 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, a ~~physician’s~~ physician assistant certified licensed
3 to prescribe and dispense prescription drugs pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 31,
4 ~~or~~ an advanced practice registered nurse authorized to prescribe and dispense
5 prescription drugs pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, or a pharmacist licensed
6 pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 36.

7 * * *

8 (c)(1) A health care professional acting in good faith and within his or her
9 scope of practice may directly or by standing order prescribe, dispense, and
10 distribute an opioid antagonist to the following persons, provided the person
11 has been educated about opioid-related overdose prevention and treatment in a
12 manner approved by the Department:

13 * * *

14 (e) A person acting on behalf of a community-based overdose prevention
15 program or a licensed pharmacist shall be immune from civil or criminal
16 liability for providing education on opioid-related overdose prevention or for
17 purchasing, acquiring, distributing, or possessing an opioid antagonist unless
18 the person’s actions constituted recklessness, gross negligence, or intentional
19 misconduct.

20 * * *

1 Sec. 30. 26 V.S.A. § 3006 is amended to read:

2 § 3006. BOARD; ESTABLISHMENT

3 The ~~board of psychological examiners~~ Board of Psychological Examiners is
4 established, which shall consist of five members.

5 (1) The ~~board~~ Board shall be composed of three licensed psychologists
6 and two other persons who are consumers but neither of whom are
7 psychologists. Consumer members shall have no financial interest in the
8 practice of psychology, either personally or through a spouse, parent, child,
9 brother, or sister. ~~At least one but not more than two of the psychologists shall~~
10 ~~represent the practice of psychology within the agency of human services or a~~
11 ~~community mental health center.~~

12 (2) All members of the ~~board~~ Board shall have been residents of the
13 ~~state of Vermont~~ State for at least two years prior to their appointment to the
14 ~~board~~ Board. ~~When a person who is an employee of or under contract with a~~
15 ~~community mental health center is subject to disciplinary action and the~~
16 ~~agency of human services member or the community mental health center~~
17 ~~member has a conflict of interest, the secretary of state shall appoint a~~
18 ~~psychologist who is an employee of another community mental health center to~~
19 ~~serve as an ad hoc member of the board.~~

1 (A) The practice of clinical social work requires the application of
2 specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills in the areas of
3 assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral
4 disorders, conditions, and addictions.

5 (B) Treatment methods include the provision of individual, marital,
6 couple, family and group counseling, and psychotherapy, which may occur in
7 diverse settings.

8 (C) The practice of clinical social work may include private practice
9 and the provision of clinical supervision.

10 (D) Licensed independent clinical social workers are qualified to use
11 the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the
12 International Classification of Diseases (I.C.D.), and other diagnostic
13 classification systems used in diagnosis and other activities.

14 ~~(2) “Clinical social worker” means a person who practices clinical social~~
15 ~~work in some or all of its aspects and is licensed to practice clinical social~~
16 ~~work in this state “Director” means the Director of the Office of Professional~~
17 ~~Regulation.~~

18 ~~(3) “Disciplinary action” or “disciplinary cases” includes any action~~
19 ~~taken by the secretary of state or an administrative law officer established by~~
20 ~~3 V.S.A. § 129(j) against a licensed clinical social worker or applicant~~
21 ~~premised on a finding of unprofessional conduct by the licensed clinical social~~

1 ~~worker or applicant. It includes all sanctions of any kind, refusal to grant or~~
2 ~~renew a license, suspension or revocation of a license, issuing warnings, and~~
3 ~~other similar sanctions~~ “Licensed independent clinical social worker” means a
4 person licensed under this chapter to practice clinical social work.

5 (4) “Licensed master’s social worker” is a person licensed under this
6 chapter to practice master’s social work. Psychotherapy is not within the scope
7 of practice of a “licensed master’s social worker.” The practice of a licensed
8 master’s social worker engaged in supervised practice toward licensure as a
9 licensed independent clinical social worker may include the practices reserved
10 for licensed independent clinical social workers.

11 (5) “Master’s social work” means the application of social work theory,
12 knowledge, methods, and ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or
13 enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals,
14 couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

15 (A) Master’s social work practice includes the application of
16 specialized knowledge and advanced practice skills in the areas of assessment,
17 treatment planning, implementation and evaluation, case management,
18 information and referral, supportive counseling, supervision, consultation,
19 education, research, advocacy, community organization, and the development,
20 implementation, and administration of policies, programs, and activities.

1 (B) Under supervision as provided in this chapter, the practice of
2 master’s social work may include the practices reserved for clinical social
3 workers.

4 (6) “Office” means the Office of Professional Regulation.

5 (7) “Psychotherapy” means the provision of treatment, diagnosis,
6 evaluation, or counseling services to individuals or groups, for a consideration,
7 for the purpose of alleviating mental disorders.

8 (A) “Psychotherapy” involves the application of therapeutic
9 techniques to understand unconscious or conscious motivation, resolve
10 emotional, relationship, or attitudinal conflicts, or modify behavior ~~which~~ that
11 interferes with effective emotional, social, or mental functioning.

12 (B) “Psychotherapy” follows a systematic procedure of
13 psychotherapeutic intervention ~~which~~ that takes place on a regular basis over a
14 period of time, or, in the case of evaluation and brief psychotherapies, in a
15 single or limited number of interventions.

16 (C) If a person is employed by or under contract with the ~~agency of~~
17 ~~human services~~ Agency of Human Services, this definition does not apply to
18 persons with less than a master’s degree, to persons providing life skills
19 training or instruction, such as learning to make friends, to handle social
20 situations, to do laundry, and to develop community awareness, or interactions
21 of employees or contracted individuals with clients whose job description or

1 contract specifications do not specifically mention “psychotherapy” as a job
2 responsibility or duty.

3 § 3202. PROHIBITION, OFFENSES

4 (a) ~~No~~ A person shall not practice or attempt to practice licensed
5 independent clinical social work or licensed master’s social work, nor shall any
6 person use in connection with the person’s name any letters, words, or insignia
7 indicating or implying that the person is a licensed independent clinical social
8 worker or a licensed master’s social worker unless the person is licensed in
9 accordance with this chapter.

10 (b) A person who violates any of the provisions of subsection (a) of this
11 section shall be subject to the penalties provided in ~~3 V.S.A. § 127(e)~~
12 3 V.S.A. § 127.

13 § 3203. ~~DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL~~
14 ~~REGULATION; DUTIES~~

15 (a) ~~The director of professional regulation~~ Director shall:

16 (1) explain appeal procedures to ~~licensed clinical social workers~~
17 licensees and applicants and complaint procedures to the public;

18 (2) administer fees collected under this chapter;

19 (3) provide general information to applicants for licensure as licensed
20 independent clinical social workers and licensed master’s social workers;

1 (4) receive applications for licensing, license applicants qualified under
2 this chapter, or renew, revoke, reinstate, and condition ~~licensing~~ licenses as
3 ordered by an administrative law officer; and

4 (5) adopt by rule criteria for licensing independent clinical social
5 workers and licensed master's social workers who have five years' licensed or
6 certified practice experience in another jurisdiction of the United States or
7 Canada.

8 (b) The ~~director~~ Director, with the advice of two licensed ~~clinical~~ social
9 workers appointed under section 3204 of this ~~title~~ chapter, may adopt rules
10 necessary to enable the ~~director~~ Director to perform his or her duties under
11 subsection (a) of this section.

12 § 3204. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

13 (a) The ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State shall appoint two individuals
14 licensed ~~clinical social workers~~ under this chapter to serve as advisors in
15 matters relating to licensed ~~clinical~~ social workers. They shall be appointed as
16 set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129b and shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~secretary~~
17 Secretary. One of the initial appointments may be for less than a full term.

18 (b) Appointees shall not have less than three years' licensed experience as a
19 ~~clinical social worker certified or licensed under this chapter during the period~~
20 ~~immediately preceding appointment~~ and shall be actively engaged in the active
21 ~~practice of clinical social work~~ in Vermont during incumbency.

1 (c) ~~The office of professional regulation~~ Director shall refer complaints and
2 disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer established under
3 3 V.S.A. § 129(j).

4 (d) ~~The director~~ Director shall seek the advice of the ~~clinical social workers~~
5 advisors appointed under this section in carrying out the provisions of this
6 chapter. Such members shall be entitled to compensation and expenses as
7 provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for attendance at any meeting called by the
8 ~~director~~ Director for this purpose.

9 § 3205. LICENSED MASTER'S SOCIAL WORKER ELIGIBILITY

10 To be eligible for licensing as a ~~clinical~~ licensed master's social worker, an
11 applicant must have:

12 (1) ~~Received~~ received a master's degree or ~~docterate~~ doctoral degree
13 from an accredited social work education program; and

14 (2) ~~[Repealed.]~~

15 (3) ~~Completed 3,000 hours of supervised practice of clinical social work~~
16 ~~as defined by rule under the supervision of a licensed physician or a licensed~~
17 ~~osteopathic physician who has completed a residency in psychiatry, a licensed~~
18 ~~psychologist, a licensed clinical mental health counselor, a person licensed or~~
19 ~~certified under this chapter, or a person licensed or certified in another state or~~
20 ~~Canada in one of these professions or their substantial equivalent. The~~
21 ~~supervisor must be licensed or certified in the jurisdiction where the supervised~~

1 ~~practice occurs. Persons engaged in post masters supervised practice in~~
2 ~~Vermont shall be entered on the roster of nonlicensed, noncertified~~
3 ~~psychotherapists;~~

4 ~~(4) Submitted the names and addresses of three persons who can attest~~
5 ~~to the applicant's professional competence. Such person shall be a licensed~~
6 ~~physician or a licensed osteopathic physician who has completed a residency in~~
7 ~~psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed clinical mental health counselor,~~
8 ~~a person licensed or certified under this chapter, or a person licensed in another~~
9 ~~state or Canada in one of these professions; and~~

10 ~~(5) Passed an examination to the satisfaction of the Director of the~~
11 ~~Office of Professional Regulation within five years prior to applying for~~
12 ~~licensure, passed the examinations designated by the Director.~~

13 § 3205a. LICENSED INDEPENDENT CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

14 ELIGIBILITY

15 (a) To be eligible for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social
16 worker, an applicant must have:

17 (1) received a master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited
18 social work education program;

19 (2) passed the examinations designated by the Director within five years
20 prior to applying for licensure; and

1 (3) completed 3,000 hours of supervised practice of independent clinical
2 social work as defined by rule under the supervision of a:

3 (A) licensed independent clinical social worker;

4 (B) licensed clinical mental health counselor;

5 (C) licensed psychologist;

6 (D) licensed physician or a licensed osteopathic physician who has
7 completed a residency in psychiatry; or

8 (E) person licensed or certified in another state or Canada in one of
9 these professions or their substantial equivalent.

10 (b) A person not licensed as a master's social worker who engages in
11 post-master's supervised practice in Vermont toward licensure as a licensed
12 independent clinical social worker shall be entered on the roster of
13 nonlicensed, noncertified psychotherapists.

14 (c) A licensed master's social worker who engages in post-master's
15 supervised practice in Vermont to become a licensed independent clinical
16 social worker must first register with the Office as set forth by rule.

17 § 3206. APPLICATION

18 A person who desires to be licensed as ~~a clinical social worker~~ under this
19 chapter shall apply to the secretary in writing on a using an application form
20 ~~furnished by~~ available from the secretary Office, accompanied by payment of
21 the specified fee.

1 § 3207. ~~EXAMINATION~~ EXAMINATIONS

2 ~~(a) The director of professional regulation shall conduct examinations~~
3 ~~under this chapter at least once a year at a time and place designated by it,~~
4 ~~provided, however, that examinations need not be conducted at times when~~
5 ~~there are no applicants requesting to be examined. Examinations shall be~~
6 ~~written. Each applicant shall be designated by a number so that his or her~~
7 ~~name is not disclosed to the director until the examination has been graded.~~
8 ~~Examinations shall include questions in such theoretical and applied fields as~~
9 ~~the director deems most suitable to test an applicant's knowledge and~~
10 ~~competence to engage in the practice of clinical social work. The director of~~
11 ~~professional regulation, with the advice of the clinical social workers appointed~~
12 ~~under section 3204 of this title, shall establish by rule fixed criteria for passing~~
13 ~~an examination that shall apply to all persons taking the examination.~~

14 ~~(b) Examinations administered by the director and the procedures of~~
15 ~~administration shall be fair and reasonable and shall be designed and~~
16 ~~implemented to ensure that all applicants are granted a license if they~~
17 ~~demonstrate that they possess the minimal occupational qualifications which~~
18 ~~are consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare. They shall not be~~
19 ~~designed or implemented for the purpose of limiting the number of licenses~~
20 ~~issued.~~

1 ~~(e) The director of the office of professional regulation~~ Director may
2 contract with ~~clinical social workers or with~~ independent testing services for
3 the preparation and administration of ~~the exam~~ examinations.

4 § 3208. RENEWALS

5 (a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years on a scheduled determined
6 by the Office upon payment of the required fee.

7 (b) An application for ~~renewal~~ reinstatement of a license ~~which~~ that has
8 ~~lapsed~~ expired shall be accompanied by the renewal fee in addition to ~~the~~
9 ~~reinstatement fee~~ other fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5. A person shall not
10 be required to pay renewal fees for the years during which the license was
11 lapsed.

12 (c) ~~The director may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, revoke a~~
13 ~~person's right to renew his or her license if such license has lapsed for five~~
14 ~~years.~~ [Repealed.]

15 * * *

16 (e) The Director may prescribe, by rule, reinstatement standards for persons
17 wishing to resume practice after five years since holding an active license.

1 § 3209. ~~LICENSING WITHOUT EXAMINATION~~ LICENSURE BY
2 ENDORSEMENT

3 The ~~director of the office of professional regulation~~ Director may, upon
4 payment of the required fee, grant a license without examination if ~~the~~
5 applicant:

6 (1) ~~is licensed~~ the applicant holds an active license to practice clinical
7 licensed master's social work or licensed independent clinical social work in
8 ~~another state~~ United States or Canadian jurisdiction; and

9 (2) the requirements for licensing in that ~~state~~ jurisdiction are, in the
10 judgment of the ~~director of the office of professional regulation~~ Director,
11 ~~essentially~~ substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

12 § 3210. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

13 (a) The following conduct and the conduct set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 129a by a
14 person licensed social worker under this chapter constitutes unprofessional
15 conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or a person who later becomes
16 an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial or discipline of a license:

17 * * *

18 (2) conduct ~~which~~ that evidences unfitness to practice licensed master's
19 or licensed independent clinical social work;

20 * * *

1 (5) practicing outside or beyond a ~~clinical social worker's~~ area of
2 licensee's education, training, experience, or competence ~~without appropriate~~
3 supervision;

4 (6) ~~engaging in conflicts~~ having a conflict of interest that ~~interfere~~
5 interferes with the exercise of the ~~clinical social worker's~~ licensee's
6 professional responsibilities, discretion, and impartial judgment;

7 (7) failing to inform a client when a real or potential conflict of interest
8 arises and failing to take reasonable steps to resolve the issue in a manner that
9 makes the client's interest primary and protects the client's interest to the
10 greatest extent possible;

11 (8) taking unfair advantage of any professional relationship or exploiting
12 others to further the ~~clinical social worker's~~ licensee's personal, religious,
13 political, or business interests;

14 * * *

15 (11) failing to clarify with all parties which individuals will be
16 considered clients and the nature of the ~~clinical social worker's~~ licensee's
17 professional obligations to the various individuals who are receiving services,
18 when a ~~clinical social worker~~ licensee provides services to two or more people
19 who have a spousal, familial, or other relationship with each other;

20 (12) failing to clarify the ~~clinical social worker's~~ licensee's role with the
21 parties involved and to take appropriate action to minimize any conflicts of

1 interest, when the clinical social worker anticipates a conflict of interest among
2 the individuals receiving services or anticipates having to perform in
3 conflicting roles such as testifying in a child custody dispute or divorce
4 proceedings involving clients.

5 (b) After hearing, and upon a finding of unprofessional conduct, an
6 administrative hearing officer may take disciplinary action against a ~~licensed~~
7 ~~clinical social worker~~ licensee or applicant.

8 * * *

9 § 3212. EXEMPTIONS

10 (a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons while engaged
11 in the course of their customary duties as clergy, licensed physicians, nurses,
12 osteopaths, optometrists, dentists, lawyers, psychologists, mental health
13 counselors, certified marriage and family therapists and psychoanalysts,
14 rostered psychotherapists, or licensed educators when performing their duties
15 consistent with the accepted standards of their respective professions;
16 provided, however, that they do not describe themselves to the public by any
17 other title or description stating or implying that they are licensed master's
18 social workers or licensed independent clinical social workers ~~or are licensed~~
19 ~~to practice clinical social work~~ under this chapter.

20 * * *

1 (c) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this~~
2 ~~section, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to any person licensed as a~~
3 ~~clinical social worker under this chapter. [Repealed.]~~

4 § 3213. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

5 (a) ~~The office of professional regulation~~ Director, in consultation with the
6 advisor appointees, shall adopt rules requiring ~~licensed clinical social workers~~
7 licensees to disclose to each client the ~~licensed clinical social worker's~~
8 licensee's professional qualifications and experience, those actions that
9 constitute unprofessional conduct, the method for filing a complaint or making
10 a consumer inquiry, and provisions relating to the manner in which the
11 information shall be displayed and signed by both the ~~clinical social worker~~
12 licensee and the client. The rules may include provisions for applying or
13 modifying these requirements in cases involving institutionalized clients,
14 minors, and adults under the supervision of a guardian.

15 (b) A licensed master's social worker employed by an agency that provides
16 each client disclosure information equivalent to that described in subsection (a)
17 of this section meets this section's disclosure requirements.

1 Sec. 32. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS; LICENSED INDEPENDENT
2 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS; LICENSED MASTER’S SOCIAL
3 WORKERS

4 (a) Licensed independent clinical social workers. A person licensed as a
5 clinical social worker immediately prior to July 1, 2017 is deemed to be
6 licensed at the level of a licensed independent clinical social worker on July 1,
7 2017 and may within the limits of his or her education, training, and
8 experience practice all aspects of social work without restriction.

9 (b) Licensed master’s social workers.

10 (1) Licensure of master’s social workers shall take effect beginning on
11 July 1, 2017.

12 (2) An individual who has a master’s degree in social work from an
13 accredited social work education program and who can document one year of
14 full-time employment in Vermont in a setting where he or she was supervised
15 or was otherwise accountable to an employer as a social worker may be
16 licensed as a master’s social worker without examination until July 1, 2018.

17 * * * Clinical Mental Health Counselors * * *

18 Sec. 33. 26 V.S.A. § 3274 is amended to read:

19 § 3274. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

20 The ~~board~~ Board shall adopt rules requiring licensed clinical mental health
21 counselors to disclose to each client the clinical mental health counselor’s

1 professional qualifications and experience, those actions that constitute
2 unprofessional conduct, the method for filing a complaint or making a
3 consumer inquiry, and provisions relating to the manner in which the
4 information shall be displayed and signed by both the clinical mental health
5 counselor and the client. The rules may include provisions for applying or
6 modifying these requirements in cases involving clients of designated
7 agencies, institutionalized clients, minors, and adults under the supervision of a
8 guardian.

9 * * * Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers * * *

10 Sec. 34. 26 V.S.A. chapter 67 is amended to read:

11 CHAPTER 67. AUDIOLOGISTS AND HEARING AID DISPENSERS

12 Subchapter 1. General Provisions

13 § 3281. DEFINITIONS

14 As used in this chapter:

15 (1) “Audiologist” means ~~any a person who has at least an M.A. or M.S.~~
16 ~~degree in audiology, at least 300 hours of supervised practical training, and is~~
17 ~~eligible for the American Speech Language Hearing Association Certificate of~~
18 ~~Clinical Competence in audiology, and provides services to the public under~~
19 ~~any title incorporating the terms audiology, audiologist, audiological, hearing~~
20 ~~clinic, hearing clinician, hearing or aural rehabilitation, or hearing specialist~~
21 licensed to practice audiology under this chapter.

1 (2) “Audiology” means the application of principles, methods, and
2 procedures related to hearing and the disorders of hearing, and to related
3 language and speech disorders, which includes all conditions that impede the
4 normal process of human communication, including disorders of auditory
5 sensitivity, acuity, function, or processing.

6 (3) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Professional
7 Regulation.

8 (4) “Disciplinary action” includes any action taken by an administrative
9 law officer established by 3 V.S.A. § 129(j) against a licensed audiologist or
10 hearing aid dispenser or an applicant premised on a finding that the licensee or
11 applicant has engaged in unprofessional conduct. “Disciplinary action”
12 includes all appropriate remedies, including obtaining injunctions, refusing to
13 grant or renew a license, suspending or revoking a license or issuing warnings.

14 ~~(3) “Dispensing hearing aids” means conducting and interpreting hearing~~
15 ~~tests for the purpose of selecting suitable hearing aids, making earmolds or~~
16 ~~impressions, and providing instruction, and includes all acts pertaining to~~
17 ~~selling, renting, leasing, pricing, delivering, and giving warranties for hearing~~
18 ~~aids.~~

19 (4)(5) “Hearing aid” means an amplifying device to be worn by a person
20 who is hard of hearing to improve hearing, including any accessories
21 specifically used in connection with such a device, but excluding theater- or

1 auditorium-wide-area listening devices, telephone amplifiers, or other devices
2 designed to replace a hearing aid for restricted situations.

3 ~~(5)~~(6) “Hearing aid dispenser” ~~includes any~~ means a person who
4 dispenses licensed under this chapter to dispense hearing aids in or into
5 Vermont.

6 ~~(6)~~ “Director” ~~means the Director of the Office of Professional~~
7 ~~Regulation.~~

8 (7) “Practice of audiology” includes the following services which may
9 be provided to persons of all ages:

10 (A) facilitating the conservation of auditory system function, and
11 developing and implementing environmental and occupational hearing
12 conservation programs;

13 (B) screening, identifying, assessing, and interpreting, diagnosing,
14 preventing, and rehabilitating peripheral and central auditory system
15 dysfunctions;

16 (C) providing and interpreting behavioral and electro-physiological
17 measurements of auditory, vestibular, and facial nerve functions;

18 (D) selecting, fitting, and dispensing of hearing aids, amplification,
19 assistive listening and alerting devices, implantable devices, and other systems,
20 and providing training in their use;

1 (E) dispensing hearing aids, including conducting and interpreting
2 hearing tests for the purpose of selecting suitable hearing aids;

3 (F) making ear molds or impressions;

4 (G) providing instruction to patients on the care and use of hearing
5 aids, auditory system functions, and hearing conservation;

6 (H) all acts pertaining to selling, renting, leasing, pricing, delivering,
7 and giving warranties for hearing aids;

8 (I) providing aural rehabilitation and related counseling services to
9 individuals who are hard of hearing and their families;

10 (J) screening of speech-language and other factors affecting
11 communication function for the purposes of an audiologic evaluation, or initial
12 identification of individuals with other communication disorders; and

13 (K) management of cerumen.

14 (8) “Practice of dispensing hearing aids” includes the following services
15 which may only be provided to persons 18 years of age or older:

16 (A) the measurement of the sensitivity of human hearing by means of
17 appropriate behavioral testing for the sole purpose of fitting air-conduction
18 hearing aids;

19 (B) the otoscopic observation of the outer ear in connection with the
20 measurement of hearing and the fitting of hearing aids and for the purpose of
21 referral to other professionals;

1 licensee to refund the full product price of the ~~hearing aid~~ equipment, except
2 for the cost of earmolds and service, up to 45 days from the date of delivery of
3 any new or substantially refabricated ~~aid~~ equipment if, in the opinion of the
4 consumer, the ~~aid~~ equipment is not satisfactory.

5 (2) If the returned ~~hearing aid~~ equipment is damaged while in the
6 possession of the consumer, the amount refunded shall be reduced by the
7 reasonable amount of the damage.

8 (3) The ~~hearing aid~~ equipment shall not be sold thereafter as new.

9 (4) ~~For purposes of~~ As used in this subsection, “cost of service” means
10 the actual cost of the service provided to fit ~~the a~~ a hearing aid or install or
11 prepare the equipment, but shall not exceed five percent of the sale price or
12 \$50.00, whichever is greater.

13 (b) The complete terms of the sale, including the terms of the 45-day trial
14 period, the individual prices for goods and services sold, and such other
15 information as the ~~director~~ Director may require shall be disclosed in writing to
16 the consumer before the sale is completed.

17 (c) If ~~a hearing aid~~ the equipment is in the possession of the ~~hearing aid~~
18 ~~dispenser~~ licensee, manufacturer, repairperson, or their agents during the trial
19 period, the period of time the ~~aid~~ equipment is in such possession shall not be
20 included in the calculation of the 45-day trial period.

1 § 3285. PROHIBITIONS; PENALTIES

2 (a) A person shall not:

3 (1) practice or attempt to practice audiology or dispense hearing aids or
4 hold oneself out as being permitted to do so in this State unless the person is
5 licensed in accordance with this chapter;

6 (2) use in connection with the person’s name an insignia or any letters or
7 words that indicate the person is an audiologist or a hearing aid dispenser
8 unless the person is licensed in accordance with this chapter; or

9 (3) practice audiology or dispense hearing aids after the person’s license
10 under this chapter has been suspended or revoked.

11 (b) A person who violates a provision of this section or who obtains a
12 license by fraud or misrepresentation shall be subject to the pertinent penalties
13 provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.

14 § 3286. EXEMPTIONS

15 The provisions of section 3285 of this chapter shall not apply to a person
16 enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree or certificate in audiology at a
17 school accredited by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association,
18 provided:

19 (1) the activities and services performed constitute part of a supervised
20 course of study;

1 (1) provide information to applicants for licensure as a an audiologist or
2 hearing aid dispenser;

3 * * *

4 (5) refer all complaints and disciplinary matters to an administrative law
5 officer established under 3 V.S.A. § 129(j); and

6 (6) ~~seek~~ with the advice of the hearing aid dispensers who are advisor
7 appointees ~~before proposing to~~, adopt or amend ~~any rules under~~ necessary to
8 implement the provisions of this chapter.

9 Subchapter 3. Licenses and Examinations

10 § 3290. ELIGIBILITY FOR AUDIOLOGIST LICENSE

11 To be eligible for licensure as an audiologist, an applicant shall have:

12 (1) A master's degree or equivalent in audiology or speech-language
13 pathology from an educational institution approved by the Director, with
14 course work completed in areas specified by rule.

15 (2) Completed a supervised clinical practicum in audiology, the length
16 and content of which shall be established by rule.

17 (3) Completed a period, as determined by rule, of postgraduate
18 professional training in audiology as approved by the Director.

19 (4) Passed an examination in audiology approved by the Director, which
20 shall include a section that is equivalent to the hearing aid dispensers
21 examination described in section 3295 of this chapter. An audiologist who has

1 passed this examination is not required to take the hearing aid dispensers
2 examination required by section 3295.

3 § 3291. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR HEARING AID DISPENSERS

4 * * *

5 (b) A person who violates a provision of this chapter or who obtains a
6 license by fraud or misrepresentation shall be subject to the pertinent penalties
7 provided in ~~3 V.S.A. § 127(e)~~ 3 V.S.A. § 127.

8 (c) ~~Audiologists~~ An audiologist licensed pursuant to this chapter ~~87 of this~~
9 ~~title~~ may dispense hearing aids consistent with the requirements of ~~that~~ this
10 chapter. Licensed audiologists are not required to obtain a separate license to
11 dispense hearing aids.

12 * * *

13 § 3293. ELIGIBILITY FOR HEARING AID DISPENSER LICENSE

14 To be eligible for licensure ~~under this chapter~~ as a hearing aid dispenser, an
15 applicant shall:

- 16 (1) have attained the age of majority; and
17 (2) pass a written examination administered by the ~~secretary~~ Director
18 under section 3295 of this ~~title~~ chapter.

1 § 3294. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AS HEARING AID

2 DISPENSER

3 ~~Applications~~ An application for licensure as a hearing aid dispenser shall be
4 made on a form furnished by the ~~director~~ Director and shall be accompanied by
5 the application and examination fees and evidence of eligibility as requested by
6 the ~~director~~ Director.

7 § 3295. EXAMINATION FOR LICENSURE AS HEARING AID

8 DISPENSER

9 (a) ~~If any applications are pending, the Director shall conduct examinations~~
10 ~~under this chapter at least twice each year.~~ Examinations shall be administered
11 in the manner and places designated by the Director.

12 (b) The examination shall cover the following: the basic physics of sound,
13 anatomy, and physiology of the ear, structure and function of hearing aids,
14 pure tone audiometry, voice and recorded speech audiometry, interpretation of
15 audiograms as related to hearing aid usage, selection and adaptation of hearing
16 aids, counseling people who are hard of hearing in the appropriate use of
17 hearing aids, identifying situations in which referrals to a physician are
18 appropriate, knowledge of medical and rehabilitation facilities for people who
19 are hard of hearing in this State, and State and federal laws relating to
20 dispensing hearing aids and other areas of knowledge determined by the
21 Director to be necessary.

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§ 3295a. TEMPORARY LICENSURE OF HEARING AID DISPENSER
WITHOUT EXAMINATION

(a) A temporary license may be issued to a person who applies for the first time to practice as a hearing aid dispenser; under section 3293 of this ~~title~~ chapter, is employed by a licensed hearing aid dispenser, and satisfies the provisions of subdivision (1) of that section.

(b)(1) A temporary license allows a person to practice as a hearing aid dispenser while directly supervised by a hearing aid dispenser licensed under section 3295 of this ~~title~~ chapter until he or she takes the next examination provided by the ~~director~~ Director and a determination is made of his or her qualifications to practice in this ~~state~~ State.

(2) The supervising hearing aid dispenser shall personally observe the temporary licensee while conducting and interpreting hearing tests and making earmolds or impressions, for a period of two months following issuance of a license under this section or until the license expires, whichever occurs first.

(c) Temporary licenses shall be issued on payment of the specified fee and shall remain in force no longer than 60 days following examination and shall not be extended except for good and exceptional cause shown by the applicant. Not more than one temporary license may be issued to the same person. ~~Ne~~ An extension shall not be granted to an applicant who fails the examination.

1 (B) stating or implying that the use of a hearing aid will retard the
2 progression of a hearing impairment;

3 (C) advertising or making any statement related to the practice of
4 audiology that is intended to or tends to deceive or mislead the public; and

5 (D) using, promoting, or causing the use of any misleading,
6 deceiving, improbable, or untruthful advertising matter, promotional literature,
7 testimonial guarantee, warranty, label, brand, insignia, or any other
8 representation;

9 (5) engaging in any unfair or deceptive act or practice within the
10 meaning of 9 V.S.A. § 2453, relating to consumer protection;

11 (6) willfully failing to honor any representation, promise, agreement, or
12 warranty to a client or consumer;

13 (7) professional negligence or malpractice;

14 (8) any of the following, except when reasonably undertaken in an
15 emergency situation in order to protect life or health:

16 (A) practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope permitted
17 by law;

18 (B) accepting and performing professional or occupational
19 responsibilities that the licensee knows or has reason to know the licensee is
20 not competent to perform; or

1 (C) performing professional or occupational services that have not
2 been authorized by the consumer or his or her legal representative;

3 (9) failing to make available, upon request of a person using the
4 licensee’s services, copies of records or documents in the possession or under
5 the control of the licensee, when those records or documents have been
6 prepared in connection with the furnishing of services or goods to the
7 requesting persons;

8 (10) sexual harassment of a patient or client;

9 (11) engaging in a sexual act as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3251 with a
10 patient;

11 (12) conviction of a crime related to the practice of audiology or
12 conviction of a felony, whether or not related to the practice of the profession;

13 (13) discouraging clients or consumers in any way from exercising their
14 right to a refund within a 45-day trial period, unreasonably delaying payment
15 of such refunds as may be due, or deducting amounts from refunds beyond
16 those allowed by law;

17 (14) failing to inform a consumer prior to sale of a hearing aid that a
18 medical evaluation of hearing loss prior to purchasing a hearing aid is in the
19 consumer’s best health interest;

20 (15) engaging in fraud in connection with any State or federally assisted
21 medical assistance programs; or

1 (16) violating any part of the Code of Ethics of the American
2 Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the American Academy of
3 Audiology.

4 Sec. 35. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS; AUDIOLOGISTS

5 (a)(1) As of September 1, 2015, any audiologist currently licensed and in
6 good standing with the Agency of Education shall be deemed licensed by the
7 Secretary of State’s Office of Professional Regulation.

8 (2) The Office of Professional Regulation shall reissue initial licenses at
9 no charge after that date and shall establish a single expiration and renewal
10 date for all of these licensees.

11 (b) An audiologist employed in a school and holding an endorsement from
12 the Agency of Education shall retain that endorsement and shall renew it with
13 the Agency as required by law, in addition to licensure with the Office of
14 Professional Regulation.

15 * * * Marriage and Family Therapists * * *

16 Sec. 36. 26 V.S.A. § 4032 is amended to read:

17 § 4032. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

18 The ~~board~~ Board shall adopt rules requiring licensed marriage and family
19 therapists to disclose to each client the marriage and family therapist’s
20 professional qualifications and experience, those actions that constitute
21 unprofessional conduct, the method for filing a complaint or making a

1 consumer inquiry, and provisions relating to the manner in which the
2 information shall be displayed and signed by both the marriage and family
3 therapist and the client. The rules may include provisions for applying or
4 modifying these requirements in cases involving clients for designated
5 agencies, institutionalized clients, minors, and adults under the supervision of a
6 guardian.

7 * * * Rostered Psychotherapists * * *

8 Sec. 37. 26 V.S.A. § 4090 is amended to read:

9 § 4090. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

10 The ~~board~~ Board shall adopt rules requiring persons entered on the roster to
11 disclose to each client the psychotherapist's professional qualifications and
12 experience, those actions that constitute unprofessional conduct, ~~and~~ the
13 method for filing a complaint or making a consumer inquiry, and provisions
14 relating to the manner in which the information shall be displayed and signed
15 by both the rostered psychotherapist and the client. The rules may include
16 provisions for applying or modifying these requirements in cases involving
17 clients of designated agencies, institutionalized clients, minors, and adults
18 under the supervision of a guardian.

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* * * Electrologists * * *

Sec. 38. 26 V.S.A. § 4403 is amended to read:

§ 4403. PROHIBITION; PENALTY; CONSTRUCTION

(a) ~~Ne~~ A person shall not use in connection with the person's name any letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a licensed electrologist unless the person is licensed in accordance with this chapter.

(b) ~~Ne~~ A person shall not practice or attempt to practice electrology, or hold himself or herself out as being able to do so, in this State without first having obtained a license as required by this chapter.

* * *

(e) This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any way the right of a practitioner of another occupation that is regulated by this State from performing services within the scope of his or her professional practice.

* * * Speech-Language Pathologists * * *

Sec. 39. 26 V.S.A. chapter 87 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 87. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS ~~AND~~
AUDIOLOGISTS

§ 4451. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) ~~“Audiologist” means a person licensed to practice audiology under this chapter.~~

1 ~~(2) “Audiology” means the application of principles, methods, and~~
2 ~~procedures related to hearing and the disorders of hearing, and to related~~
3 ~~language and speech disorders, which includes all conditions that impede the~~
4 ~~normal process of human communication, including disorders of auditory~~
5 ~~sensitivity, acuity, function, or processing.~~

6 ~~(3) “Board” means the Vermont Standards Board for Professional~~
7 ~~Educators unless the context clearly requires otherwise.~~

8 ~~(4) “Agency” means the Agency of Education.~~

9 ~~(5) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Professional~~
10 ~~Regulation.~~

11 ~~(6)~~(2) “Disciplinary action” means any action taken by the
12 administrative law officer appointed pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 129(j) against a
13 licensee or applicant for licensure under this chapter, premised on a finding
14 that the person has engaged in unprofessional conduct. “Disciplinary action”
15 includes all sanctions of any kind, including obtaining injunctions, refusal to
16 give an examination, refusal to grant or renew a license, suspension or
17 revocation of a license, placement of limitations or restrictions upon a license,
18 issuance of warnings, ordering restitution, and other similar sanctions.

19 ~~(7) “Hearing aid” means an amplifying device to be worn by a person~~
20 ~~who is hard of hearing to improve hearing, including any accessories~~
21 ~~specifically used in connection with such a device, but excluding theater or~~

1 ~~auditorium wide area listening devices, telephone amplifiers, or other devices~~
2 ~~designed to replace a hearing aid for restricted situations.~~

3 ~~(8) “Practice of audiology” includes:~~

4 ~~(A) facilitating the conservation of auditory system function, and~~
5 ~~developing and implementing environmental and occupational hearing~~
6 ~~conservation programs;~~

7 ~~(B) screening, identifying, assessing and interpreting, diagnosing,~~
8 ~~preventing, and rehabilitating peripheral and central auditory system~~
9 ~~dysfunctions;~~

10 ~~(C) providing and interpreting behavioral and electro-physiological~~
11 ~~measurements of auditory, vestibular, and facial nerve functions;~~

12 ~~(D) selecting, fitting, and dispensing of hearing aids, amplification,~~
13 ~~assistive listening and alerting devices, implantable devices, and other systems,~~
14 ~~and providing training in their use;~~

15 ~~(E) dispensing hearing aids, including conducting and interpreting~~
16 ~~hearing tests for the purpose of selecting suitable hearing aids;~~

17 ~~(F) making ear molds or impressions;~~

18 ~~(G) providing instruction to patients on the care and use of hearing~~
19 ~~aids, auditory system functions, and hearing conservation;~~

20 ~~(H) all acts pertaining to selling, renting, leasing, pricing, delivering,~~
21 ~~and giving warranties for hearing aids;~~

1 ~~(11)~~(5) “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

2 ~~(12)~~(6) “Speech-language pathologist” means a person licensed to
3 practice speech-language pathology under this chapter.

4 ~~(13)~~(7) “Speech-language pathology” means the application of
5 principles, methods, and procedures related to the development and disorders
6 of human communication, which include any and all conditions that impede
7 the normal process of human communication.

8 ~~(14) “Within the jurisdiction of the Board” means conduct or work~~
9 ~~performed by a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist on behalf~~
10 ~~of a supervisory union or public school district in Vermont or an independent~~
11 ~~school approved for special education purposes, or conduct otherwise subject~~
12 ~~to discipline under the licensing rules of the Board.~~

13 (8) “Speech-language pathology assistant” means a person who has met
14 the conditions of this chapter and is licensed to perform selected
15 speech-language pathology interventions and related tasks that have been
16 assigned by a supervising speech-language pathologist.

17 § 4452. PROHIBITIONS; PENALTIES

18 (a) ~~Not~~ A person shall not:

19 (1) practice or attempt to practice ~~audiology or~~ speech-language
20 pathology, practice or attempt to practice as a speech-language pathology

1 assistant, or hold oneself out as being permitted to do so in this ~~state~~ State

2 unless the person is licensed in accordance with this chapter;

3 (2) use in connection with the person's name, an insignia or any letters
4 or words ~~which~~ that indicate the person is ~~an audiologist or a speech-language~~
5 pathologist or speech-language pathologist assistant unless the person is
6 licensed in accordance with this chapter; or

7 (3) practice ~~audiology or~~ speech-language pathology or practice as a
8 speech-language pathologist assistant after the person's license under this
9 chapter has been suspended or revoked.

10 (b) A person who violates a provision of this section or who obtains a
11 license by fraud or misrepresentation shall be subject to the pertinent penalties
12 provided in ~~3 V.S.A. § 127(e)~~ 3 V.S.A. § 127.

13 § 4453. EXEMPTIONS

14 The provisions of section 4452 of this ~~title~~ chapter shall not apply to ~~the~~
15 ~~following persons:~~

16 (1) ~~A~~ a person enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree or
17 certificate in ~~audiology or~~ speech-language pathology at a school accredited by
18 the American Speech-Language Hearing Association or a person enrolled in a
19 course of study leading to a degree or certificate as a speech-language
20 pathology assistant, provided:

1 ~~(A)~~(1) the activities and services performed constitute part of a
2 supervised course of study;

3 ~~(B)~~(2) the person is designated by a title which clearly indicates the
4 person's student or trainee status; and

5 ~~(C)~~(3) the person is under the direct supervision of ~~an audiologist or a~~
6 speech-language pathologist licensed in this ~~state~~ State.

7 ~~(2) A hearing aid dispenser performing services within the scope of a~~
8 ~~license under chapter 67 of this title.~~

9 § 4454. CONSTRUCTION

10 ~~(a)~~ This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any way the
11 right of a practitioner of another occupation ~~which~~ that is regulated by this
12 ~~state~~ State from performing services within the scope of his or her professional
13 practice.

14 ~~(b) This chapter shall not be construed to limit the authority of the board to~~
15 ~~determine and evaluate the qualifications of, issue licenses to, or discipline~~
16 ~~licensees who are within the jurisdiction of the board.~~

17 § 4455. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

18 ~~(a) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education,~~ shall
19 appoint two individuals to serve as advisors in matters related to ~~audiology and~~
20 speech-language pathology. ~~One advisor~~ Both advisors shall be a licensed
21 speech-language pathologist, ~~and one advisor shall be an audiologist. Advisors~~

1 ~~who are speech language pathologists or audiologists~~ pathologists, shall have
2 not less than three years' experience as ~~audiologists or~~ speech-language
3 pathologists immediately preceding appointment, and shall be actively engaged
4 in the practice of ~~audiology or~~ speech-language pathology in Vermont during
5 incumbency. ~~The advisors shall be appointed for staggered terms of three~~
6 ~~years, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. One of the initial~~
7 ~~appointments may be for less than a three-year term.~~

8 (b) The ~~Secretary~~ Director shall seek the advice of the individuals
9 appointed under this section in ~~matters related to qualifications or alleged~~
10 ~~misconduct not within the jurisdiction of the Board~~ carrying out the provisions
11 of this chapter. The advisors shall be entitled to compensation and necessary
12 expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings called by the Director.

13 ~~(c) The Secretary may seek the advice of other audiologists and~~
14 ~~speech language pathologists licensed under this chapter.~~

15 § 4456. ~~SECRETARY OF EDUCATION;~~ DIRECTOR DUTIES

16 (a) The ~~Secretary of Education~~ Director shall administer the application
17 and renewal process for all licensees under this chapter, and shall:

18 * * *

19 (5) receive applications for licensure, grant licensure under this chapter,
20 renew licenses, and deny, revoke, suspend, reinstate, or condition licenses as
21 directed by ~~the~~ an administrative law officer;

1 ~~(6) refer all complaints and disciplinary matters not within the~~
2 ~~jurisdiction of the Board to the Secretary of State;~~

3 ~~(7)~~ with the advice of the advisor appointees, adopt rules necessary to
4 implement the provisions of this chapter, including standards of practice
5 related to the supervision and delegation of tasks to speech-language pathology
6 assistants;

7 ~~(8)(7)~~ prepare and maintain a registry of licensed speech-language
8 pathologists ~~and audiologists~~ and speech-language pathology assistants; and

9 ~~(9)(8)~~ issue to each person licensed a certificate of licensure ~~which~~ that
10 shall be prima facie evidence of the right of the person to whom it is issued to
11 practice as a licensed ~~audiologist or~~ speech-language pathologist or
12 speech-language pathology assistant, subject to the conditions and limitations
13 of this chapter.

14 ~~(b) The Agency may contract with the Secretary of State for provision of~~
15 ~~adjudicative services of one or more administrative law officers and other~~
16 ~~investigative, legal, and administrative services related to licensure and~~
17 ~~discipline of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. [Repealed.]~~

18 § 4457. LICENSURE; APPLICATIONS; ELIGIBILITY

19 ~~Applicants~~ An applicant for licenses licensure under this chapter shall
20 submit an application to the ~~department~~ Office on a form furnished by the
21 ~~department~~ Office, along with payment of the specified fee and evidence of the

1 eligibility qualifications established by the ~~board which~~ Director that shall
2 include, at a minimum:

3 (1) Speech language pathologist:

4 (A) ~~A~~ a master's degree or equivalent in ~~audiology or~~ speech-
5 language pathology from an educational institution approved by the
6 ~~department~~ Director with course work completed in areas specified by rule.;

7 (2)(B) ~~Completion~~ completion of a supervised clinical practicum, the
8 length and content of which shall be established by rule.;

9 (3)(C) ~~Completion~~ completion of a period, as determined by rule, of
10 postgraduate professional training as approved by the ~~department.~~
11 Director; and

12 (4)(D) ~~Passing~~ passing an examination in ~~audiology or~~ speech-language
13 pathology approved by the ~~department, which, in the case of the audiology~~
14 ~~examination, shall include a section which is equivalent to the hearing aid~~
15 ~~dispensers examination described in section 3295 of this title. Audiologists~~
16 ~~who have passed an examination chosen by the department are not required to~~
17 ~~take the hearing aid dispensers examination required by section 3295~~ Director.

18 (2) Speech-language pathology assistant:

19 (A)(i) an associate degree or a bachelor degree in a speech-language
20 pathologist assistant or communications disorders program; or

1 Sec. 40. REPEAL

2 The following sections set forth in 26 V.S.A. chapter 87 (speech-language
3 pathologists) are repealed:

4 (1) § 4460 (records and equipment);

5 (2) § 4461 (prices to be disclosed);

6 (3) § 4462 (terms of sale; 45-day trial period); and

7 (4) § 4463 (maintenance of business address; display of license).

8 Sec. 41. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

9 (a)(1) As of September 1, 2015, any speech-language pathologist licensed
10 and in good standing with the Agency of Education shall be deemed licensed
11 by the Secretary of State’s Office of Professional Regulation.

12 (2) The Office of Professional Regulation shall re-issue initial licenses
13 speech-language pathologist licenses at no charge after that date and shall
14 establish a single expiration and renewal date for all of those licensees.

15 (b) A speech-language pathologist employed in a school and holding an
16 endorsement from the Agency of Education shall retain that endorsement and
17 shall renew it with the Agency as required by law, in addition to licensure with
18 the Office of Professional Regulation.

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* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 44. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

(1) Sec. 34 (amending 26 V.S.A. chapter 67 (audiologists and hearing aid dispensers)) shall take effect on September 1, 2015;

(2) Secs. 39 (amending 26 V.S.A. chapter 87 (speech-language pathologists)) and 40 (repeal of sections in 26 V.S.A. chapter 87) shall take effect on September 1, 2015;

(3) 26 V.S.A. § 1575a (criminal background checks) in Sec. 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2017; and

(4) Sec. 31 (amending 26 V.S.A. chapter 61 (social workers)) shall take effect on July 1, 2017.