

HOUSE BILL 479

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSING; ENACTING A NEW SECTION OF THE UNIFORM LICENSING ACT TO PROHIBIT NON-PHYSICIAN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WITH A DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM USING THE TITLE OF "DOCTOR" IN ANY FORM OF ADVERTISING OR COMMUNICATION IN A CLINICAL SETTING WITHOUT IDENTIFYING AS A DOCTOR OF A SPECIFIC PROFESSION; PROVIDING FOR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Uniform Licensing Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] PROHIBITING NON-PHYSICIAN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FROM USING THE TITLE OF "DOCTOR".--

A. A non-physician health care provider shall only use the titles and abbreviations authorized by the non-physician health care provider's respective professional

.230369.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 licensing statutes.

2 B. A non-physician health care provider who has  
3 obtained a doctoral degree in the profession governed by the  
4 non-physician health care provider's professional licensing  
5 statute may use the letter "D" in front of the abbreviations  
6 authorized by the relevant statute.

7 C. A non-physician health care provider shall not  
8 use the title of "doctor" without clearly identifying as a  
9 doctor of a specific profession in any:

10 (1) form of advertisement, printed or  
11 electronic material that names the non-physician health care  
12 provider, practice, profession or institution in which the non-  
13 physician health care provider is employed, volunteers or  
14 otherwise provides services, including signage, business cards,  
15 identification badges, letterheads, brochures, email, websites  
16 or internet platforms; or

17 (2) in-person or technology-assisted clinical  
18 interaction with patients or the patients' caregivers.

19 D. A violation of this section shall be grounds for  
20 disciplinary action, including denial, suspension or revocation  
21 of the non-physician health care provider's license pursuant to  
22 the applicable professional licensing act.

23 E. Each board or department shall adopt rules to  
24 implement this section."

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