HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1412 By: Murphey

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to professions and occupations; defining certain terms; amending 59 O.S. 2011, Section 481, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 349, O.S.L. 2013 (59 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 481), which relates to membership on the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision; increasing number of members on Board; requiring Board to prepare certain grievance form; requiring Board investigators to commence investigation regarding matters set forth in grievance and prepare investigative report; requiring members of Board to be divided into inquiry and hearing panels; requiring inquiry panel to hear grievances, issue certain report, and issue complaint if grievance discloses violation of certain act; setting forth requirements of complaint; setting forth proceedings after issuance of complaint; permitting physician to seek informal dispensation of any matter; amending 59 O.S. 2011, Sections 506, 509.1, 512, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 176, O.S.L. 2014 and 513 (59 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 512), which relate to disciplinary actions, Board investigators, and appeal of Board decisions; removing ability of Board to accept surrender in lieu of prosecution; granting Board investigators authority to receive information necessary to prepare investigatory report; updating certain references; repealing 59 O.S. 2011, Section 503, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 176, O.S.L. 2014 (59 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 503), which relates to sanctions for unprofessional conduct of physicians; repealing 59 O.S. 2011, Section 505, which relates to the state as

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a party in prosecuting unprofessional conduct; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 479 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

- "President" means the president of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision;
- 2. "Secretary" means the secretary of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision;
- 3. "Executive Director" means the executive director of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision or any assistant executive directors appointed by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision;
- 4. "Grievance" means a written submission to the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision alleging misconduct by a physician;
- 5. "Charge" means a specific allegation alleging a violation of a specified provision of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act;

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- 6. "Complaint" means a formal administrative pleading that sets forth charges against a physician and commences a formal disciplinary proceeding;
- 7. "Order" means a direction of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision or its panels made or entered in writing that determines some point or directs some step in the proceeding and is not included in the final order;
- 8. "Agreed order" means a written document that includes but is not necessarily limited to stipulations of fact or stipulated conclusions of law that finally resolves a grievance or a complaint issued without expectation of further formal proceedings;
- 9. "Final order" means an order issued by the hearing panel that imposes one or more disciplinary sanctions authorized by the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act; and
- 10. "Letter of concern" means a confidential advisory letter to notify a physician that, although there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision believes the physician should modify or eliminate certain practices and that the continuation of those practices may result in action against the physician's license.
- SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 481, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 349, O.S.L. 2013 (59 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 481), is amended to read as follows:

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Section 481. A. A State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision hereinafter referred to as the "Board", is hereby recreated, to continue until July 1, 2019, in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Sunset Law.

- $\underline{\text{B.}}$ The Board shall be composed of seven (7) eleven (11) members:
- 1. Nine shall be allopathic physicians licensed to practice medicine in this state and represent the public and two (2) lay members. The physician members of the Board shall be graduates of legally chartered medical schools recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the Liaison Council on Medical Education. The physician members shall have actively practiced as licensed physicians continuously in this state for the three (3) years immediately preceding their appointment to the Board; and
- 2. Two shall be lay members of the public who are not associated with nor financially interested in the practice regulated.

All members of the Board shall be residents of this state and shall be appointed by the Governor as provided for in Section 482 of this title. All present members of the Board serving as of the effective date of this act shall continue to serve for the remainder of their current terms.

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- SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 500.1 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. 1. A grievance may be submitted by an individual, organization or entity.
- 2. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall prepare and make available to the public a grievance form, and waiver of privilege and agreement to release records form. The forms shall be provided to a party who wants to register a grievance against a physician.
 - B. Each grievance shall be filed on a grievance form and:
- 1. Include the name and address of the party filing the grievance; or
- 2. Be filed anonymously, subject to subsection D of this section.
- C. A Board member may initiate a grievance by providing a written memorandum to the Executive Director.
- D. If the Board receives an anonymous grievance, an investigation shall be conducted only if the grievance is accompanied by sufficient corroborating evidence as would allow the Board to believe, based upon a totality of the circumstances, that a reasonable probability exists that the grievance is meritorious.
- E. Upon the receipt of a grievance meeting the requirements of subsection B of this section, Board investigators shall commence an

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investigation of the matters set forth in the grievance. Prior to the completion of the investigation, the investigators shall request an interview with or written response from the physician who is the subject of the grievance. The investigators shall provide the physician with a copy of the grievance(s) upon which the investigation was initiated and details of the investigation sufficient to allow the physician a meaningful opportunity to respond.

- F. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigators shall prepare an investigative report that details the information obtained during the course of the investigation. The investigative report shall include the response, if any, provided by the physician who is the subject of the grievance. The grievance and the investigative report shall be submitted to the assigned inquiry panel for consideration.
- SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 500.2 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The President shall divide the membership of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, excluding himself or herself, into two panels of five members, each panel to include at least one consumer member. Each panel shall have the power to act as an inquiry or a hearing panel. The President shall not be a permanent member of either panel, but shall have the power to render the

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deciding vote whenever a tie vote is rendered by either panel and shall have the power to serve as a member of either panel when necessary to achieve a quorum by majority.

- B. Each grievance shall be investigated as necessary and the Secretary of the Board shall assign each grievance to an inquiry panel. The Secretary shall have the power to issue investigatory subpoenas for the appearance of any person or production of any record, document or other item within the jurisdiction of the state. The panel or Secretary may seek enforcement of investigatory subpoenas and search warrants in the courts of the state as may be necessary.
- C. Upon completion of its inquiry, the inquiry panel shall issue a written report, a copy of which shall be provided to the physician who is the subject of the inquiry, containing findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting a determination that:
- 1. There is no evidence of a violation of the Oklahoma
 Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act and no
 further action is necessary;
- 2. There is insufficient evidence of a violation to warrant the issuance of a complaint, but that there is evidence of a practice or activity that requires modification and the panel may issue a letter of concern. The letter of concern shall be a confidential document; provided, that the letter may be used in future disciplinary actions against the physician;

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- 3. The grievance discloses an instance of misconduct which does not warrant the issuance of a complaint. In these instances the panel may admonish the physician for his or her misconduct; or
- 4. The grievance disclosed one or more violations of the provisions of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act which warrant the issuance of a complaint. In these instances the panel shall cause a complaint to be prepared, signed by the presiding officer, which shall contain sufficient information to apprise the named physician of the general nature of the charges.
- D. In the event the inquiry panel makes a determination as set forth in paragraphs 2 through 4 of subsection C of this section, the inquiry panel shall provide the physician a copy of the investigative report submitted to the inquiry panel.
- SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 500.3 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
 - A. The complaint issued by an inquiry panel shall:
 - 1. Be signed and dated;
- 2. Be styled in regard to the matter of the license to practice in the State of Oklahoma held by the named physician and designated with an appropriate case number; and
- 3. Set forth the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision's jurisdiction in regard to the subject matter of the

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complaint and, in numerical paragraphs, sufficient information to apprise the named physician of the general nature of the charges.

- B. Upon the filing of the complaint, the Executive Director shall assign the matter for an administrative hearing by a hearing panel, and a citation shall be issued over the signature of the Secretary and seal of the Board giving due notice of the time and place of the hearing by the hearing panel and advising the physician that a response must be filed with the Board within thirty (30) days after service and that failure to submit a timely response may be taken by the Board as an admission of the charges.
- C. The inquiry panel shall cause the complaint to be served on the charged physician by personal delivery or by certified mail to the physician's last address of which the Board has record. The physician shall submit a response within thirty (30) days after service. The Secretary of the Board may extend the time of answer upon satisfactory showing that the defendant is for reasonable cause unable to answer within the thirty (30) days, but in no case shall the time be extended beyond the date of the next regular meeting of the Board, unless a continuance is granted by the Board. Failure to submit a timely response or willful avoidance of service may be taken by the Board as an admission of the charges.
- SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 500.4 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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- A. For each complaint assigned to a hearing panel, the hearing panel shall choose from among the panel members a member to serve as the presiding officer. The rulings of the presiding officer shall be the rulings of the hearing panel, unless reversed by a majority vote of the hearing panel upon appeal thereto from such rulings of the hearing officer. The hearing panel shall sit as the trial body over the hearing on the complaint and over hearings on dispositive motions. All other pretrial matters may be assigned by the hearing panel to the Board trial examiner of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. Orders of the trial examiner may be appealed to the hearing panel. No member who served on the inquiry panel may also serve as a member of the hearing panel.
- B. The State of Oklahoma is a proper and necessary party in the prosecution of all such actions and hearings before the Board in all matters pertaining to unprofessional conduct under the contemplation of this act, and the Attorney General of this state, in person, or by deputy, is authorized and directed to appear in behalf thereof and shall act as the prosecuting attorney in regard to any disciplinary proceeding. The burden of proof shall be upon the state to prove the allegations contained in the complaint by clear and convincing evidence. The prosecuting attorney shall not engage in ex parte communications with or participate in any deliberations of the Board related to the matter for which the attorney is serving as prosecutor.

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- C. The Board may appoint an attorney to act as advisory counsel to the Board in regard to any deliberations of the Board pursuant to the issuance of a complaint or order of temporary discipline.
- D. The defendant may be represented by legal counsel in all matters before the Board.
- E. Upon completion of an administrative hearing, the hearing panel shall issue a final order that:
- 1. Dismisses the complaint upon a conclusion that the allegations contained in the complaint were not proven by clear and convincing evidence;
- 2. Finds a violation of the provisions of the Oklahoma
 Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervisions Act, but
 does not impose discipline because the panel does not believe
 discipline to be necessary under the circumstances; or
- 3. Imposes discipline upon the licensee. In these instances the panel may revoke, suspend, restrict, deny, or limit a license, or may reprimand a licensee or place a licensee on probation under terms the panel may establish to protect the licensee, his or her patients, or the general public. The hearing panel may impose a fine whenever it finds that a violation of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act has occurred.
- F. The secretary shall preserve a record of all proceedings in such hearings and shall furnish a transcript thereof to the defendant upon request therefor; provided, the said defendant shall

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pay the actual cost of preparing such transcript. If the services of a court reporter are requested, the court reporter shall be reimbursed or paid by the party who made such request.

- G. The presiding officer or trial examiner shall at any proceeding held pursuant to a complaint take whatever measures are necessary to protect the privacy interests of individuals other than the charged physician upon a showing that evidence is to be introduced, the public disclosure of which would constitute a clear invasion of personal privacy. It is the general policy of the state that administrative proceedings should be open to the public. Therefore, in applying this subsection, the presiding officer or trial examiner shall balance the competing interests and employ the least restrictive measures available to protect the privacy interests involved.
- SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 500.5 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. At any time after the authorized issuance of a complaint or the issuance of a show-cause order, the responding physician may seek an informal dispensation of any matter. The prosecuting attorney shall have complete discretion to negotiate with the responding physician concerning stipulations of fact, conclusions of law and proposed discipline, if any. The prosecuting attorney shall also have discretion to reject any or all offers of informal

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dispensation and may commence informal proceedings on his or her own initiative. Except as set forth in subsection B of this section, the prosecuting attorney shall not consult with nor seek the consent of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision or any Board employee concerning the terms negotiated during informal proceedings.

- B. Whenever the prosecuting attorney believes that an appropriate informal dispensation has been negotiated, he or she shall cause to be presented to the Board stipulations of fact, conclusions of law and a proposed order of informal dispensation signed by the responding physician and the prosecuting attorney. The documents shall include a line for the signature of an officer of the Board and shall become effective upon being accepted by the Board, signed by an officer and filed of record.
- C. If the Board rejects an offer of informal dispensation, the matter shall continue to proceed as a formal proceeding; provided, however, that further informal negotiations may be conducted and subsequent offers of informal dispensation presented to the Board. Rejection shall not be taken as a finding or determination of any kind on behalf of the Board and no orders or other pleadings shall be filed of record in regard to any rejected proposal.
- D. The Board may allow oral or written presentation before the Board in regard to any offer of informal dispensation. Oral presentations shall not be recorded and written presentations shall

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not be filed of record or included in the Board's minutes. All oral and written presentations shall be heard and considered in closed session.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 506, is amended to read as follows:

Section 506. A. If it is the decision of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, after considering all the testimony presented, that the defendant is guilty as charged, the Board shall revoke the license of the defendant, and the defendant's rights to practice medicine and surgery. The Board, however, may suspend a license, during which suspension the holder of such suspended license shall not be entitled to practice medicine and surgery thereunder. If during suspension, the defendant practiced medicine or surgery or has been guilty of any act of unprofessional conduct, as defined by the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act, the Board may revoke the license of such licensee or place the licensee upon probation for any period of time not less than one (1) year, nor more than five (5) years, or on second offense place the licensee on probation for an indefinite period of time, during which time the licensee's conduct will be kept under observation. The Board, furthermore, may impose on the defendant, as a condition of any suspension or probation, a requirement that the defendant attend and produce evidence of successful completion of a specific term of education, residency, or

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training in enumerated fields and/or institutions as ordered by the Board based on the facts of the case. The education, residency, or training shall be at the expense of the defendant. The Board may also impose other disciplinary actions as provided for in Section 509.1 of this title. At the end of any term of suspension imposed by the Board, the applicant for reinstatement shall show to the Board successful completion of all conditions and requirements imposed by the Board and demonstrate eligibility for reinstatement.

- B. Immediately upon learning that a licensee has been convicted of a felonious violation of a state or federal narcotics law, the Executive Director of the Board shall summarily suspend the license and assign a hearing date for the matter to be presented to the Board. Immediately upon learning that a licensee is in violation of a Board-ordered probation, the Executive Director of the Board may summarily suspend the license based on imminent harm to the public and assign a hearing date for the matter to be presented at the next scheduled Board meeting.
- SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 509.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 509.1 A. RANGE OF ACTIONS: The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision may impose disciplinary actions in accordance with the severity of violation of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to the following:

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- 1. Revocation of the medical license with or without the right to reapply;
 - 2. Suspension of the medical license;
 - 3. Probation;

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- 4. Stipulations, limitations, restrictions, and conditions relating to practice;
 - 5. Censure, including specific redress, if appropriate;
 - 6. Reprimand;
 - 7. A period of free public or charity service;
- 8. Satisfactory completion of an educational, training, and/or treatment program or programs; and
- 9. Administrative fines of up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per violation.
- Provided, as a condition of disciplinary action sanctions, the Board may impose as a condition of any disciplinary action, the payment of costs expended by the Board for any legal fees and costs and probation and monitoring fees including, but not limited to, staff time, salary and travel expense, witness fees and attorney fees.

 The Board may take such actions singly or in combination as the nature of the violation requires.
- B. LETTER OF CONCERN: The Board may authorize the secretary to issue a confidential letter of concern to a licensee when evidence does not warrant formal proceedings, but the secretary has noted indications of possible errant conduct that could lead to serious

consequences and formal action. The letter of concern may contain, at the secretary's discretion, clarifying information from the licensee.

C. EXAMINATION/EVALUATION: The Board may, upon reasonable cause, require professional competency, physical, mental, or chemical dependency examinations of any licensee, including withdrawal and laboratory examination of body fluids.

D. C. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST LICENSEES:

- 1. The Board shall promulgate rules describing acts of unprofessional or unethical conduct by physicians pursuant to the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act; and
- 2. Grounds for Action: The Board may take disciplinary action for unprofessional or unethical conduct as deemed appropriate based upon the merits of each case and as set out by rule. The Board shall not revoke the license of a person otherwise qualified to practice allopathic medicine within the meaning of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act solely because the person's practice or a therapy is experimental or nontraditional.

Reports of all disciplinary action provided for in this section will be available to the public upon request.

E. SURRENDER IN LIEU OF PROSECUTION:

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1	1. The E	Board may accept a surrender of license from a licensee
2	who has engag	ged in unprofessional conduct in lieu of Board staff
3	prosecuting a	pending disciplinary action or filing formal
4	disciplinary	proceedings only as provided in this section. To
5	effect such a	surrender, the licensee must submit a sworn statement
6	to the Board:	-
7	a.	expressing the licensee's desire to surrender the
8		license,
9	b.	acknowledging that the surrender is freely and
0		voluntarily made, that the licensee has not been
1		subjected to coercion or duress, and that the licensee
2		is fully aware of the consequences of the license
3		surrender,
4	c.	stating that the licensee is the subject of an
5		investigation or proceeding by the Board or a law
6		enforcement or other regulatory agency involving
7		allegations which, if proven, would constitute grounds
8		for disciplinary action by the Board, and
9	d.	specifically admitting to and describing the
0		misconduct.
1	2. The s	worn written statement must be submitted with the
2	licensee's wa	ellet card and wall certificate. The Secretary or
3	Executive Dir	ector of the Board may accept the sworn statement,
4	wallet card a	and wall certificate from a licensee pending formal

acceptance by the Board. The issuance of a complaint and citation
by the Board shall not be necessary for the Board to accept a
surrender under this subsection. A surrender under this subsection
shall be considered disciplinary action by the Board in all cases,
even in cases where surrender occurs prior to the issuance of a
formal complaint and citation, and shall be reported as disciplinary
action by the Board to the public and any other entity to whom the
Board regularly reports disciplinary actions.

- 3. As a condition to acceptance of the surrender, the Board may require the licensee to pay the costs expended by the Board for any legal fees and costs and any investigation, probation and monitoring fees including, but not limited to, staff time, salary and travel expense, witness fees and attorney fees.
- 4. The licensee whose surrender in lieu of prosecution is accepted by the Board shall be ineligible to reapply for reinstatement of his or her license for at least one (1) year from the date of the accepted surrender.
- F. D. ALL LICENSED PROFESSIONALS: All disciplinary actions defined in this section are applicable to any and all professional licensees under the legislative jurisdiction of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.
- SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 512, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 176, O.S.L. 2014 (59 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 512), is amended to read as follows:

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Section 512. The secretary of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall be paid an annual salary in an amount fixed by the Board. The Board shall have the authority to expend such funds as are necessary in carrying out the duties of the Board and shall have the authority to hire all necessary personnel, at salaries to be fixed by the Board, as the Board shall deem necessary. The Board shall have the authority to hire attorneys to represent the Board in all legal matters and to assist authorized state and county officers in prosecuting or restraining violations of Section 481 et seq. of this title, and to fix the salaries or per diem of said attorneys.

The Board shall have the authority to hire one or more investigators as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act at an annual salary to be fixed by the Board. Such investigators may be commissioned peace officers of this state. In addition such investigators shall have the authority and duty to investigate and inspect the records of all persons in order to determine whether or not a disciplinary action for unprofessional misconduct is warranted or whether the narcotic laws or the dangerous drug laws have been complied with receive information necessary to the preparation of an investigatory report for submission to the inquiry panel.

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The Board is specifically authorized to contract with state agencies or other bodies to perform investigative services at a rate set by the Board.

The Board is authorized to pay the travel expenses of Board employees and members in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

The expenditures authorized herein shall not be a charge against the state, but the same shall be paid solely from the Board's depository fund.

SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 513, is amended to read as follows:

Section 513. A. 1. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision is hereby given quasi-judicial powers while sitting as a Board for the purpose of revoking, suspending or imposing other disciplinary actions upon the license of physicians or surgeons of this state, and appeals from its decisions final orders shall be taken to the Supreme Court of this state within thirty (30) days of the date that a copy of the decision final order is mailed to the appellant, as shown by the certificate of mailing attached to the decision.

2. The license of any physician or surgeon who has been convicted of any felony in or without the State of Oklahoma and whether in a state or federal court, may be suspended by the Board upon the submission thereto of a certified copy of the judgment and

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- sentence of the trial court and the certificate of the clerk of the court of the conviction.
- 3. Upon proof of a final felony conviction by the courts and after exhaustion of the appellate process, the Board shall revoke the physician's license. If the felony conviction is overturned on appeal and no other appeals are sought, the Board shall restore the license of the physician. Suspension or revocation of the license of any person convicted of a felony on any other grounds than that of moral turpitude or the violation of the federal or state narcotic laws, shall be on the merits of the particular case, but the court records in the trial of such case when conviction has been had shall be prima facie evidence of the conviction.
- 4. The Board shall also revoke and cancel the license of any physician or surgeon who has been charged in a court of record of this or other states of the United States or in the federal court with the commission of a felony and who is a fugitive from justice, upon the submission of a certified copy of the charge together with a certificate from the clerk of the court that after the commitment of the crime the physician or surgeon fled from the jurisdiction of the court and is a fugitive from justice.
- B. To the extent necessary to allow the Board the power to enforce disciplinary actions imposed by the Board, in the exercise of its authority, the Board may punish willful violations of its

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1	orders and impose additional penalties as allowed by Section 509.1
2	of this title.
3	SECTION 12. REPEALER 59 O.S. 2011, Section 503, as
4	amended by Section 1, Chapter 176, O.S.L. 2014 (59 O.S. Supp. 2014,
5	Section 503), is hereby repealed.
6	SECTION 13. REPEALER 59 O.S. 2011, Section 505, is
7	hereby repealed.
8	SECTION 14. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.
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0	COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, dated 02/18/2015 - DO PASS, As Amended.
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