

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 399

By: Rosino and Bullard of the  
Senate

and

Newton of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the healing arts; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Sections 725.1, 725.2, 731.2, 731.5, and 887.14, which relate to professions and occupations; authorizing certain physical therapists to use certain titles; updating statutory references; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-116, which relates to definitions used in the Oklahoma Health Care Information System Act; clarifying applicability of certain definition; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 725.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 725.1. A. Every person who writes or prints, or causes to be written or printed, his or her name (whether or not the word "Doctor", or an abbreviation thereof, is used in connection therewith) in connection with, as engaging in, or holding himself or

1 herself out as engaging in, any of the branches of the healing art  
2 shall append to his or her name the letters or words set forth in  
3 Section 725.2 of this title if the person is one of the ~~nine~~ ten  
4 classes of persons listed in subsection A of Section 725.2 of this  
5 title.

6 B. If the person is not one of the ~~nine~~ ten classes of persons  
7 listed in subsection A of Section 725.2 of this title and is engaged  
8 in a branch of the healing art, the person shall write or print, in  
9 the same size letters as his or her name, appropriate and generally  
10 and easily understood words or letters, which clearly show and  
11 indicate the branch of the healing art in which he or she is  
12 licensed to practice and is engaged.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 725.2, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 725.2. A. The following ~~nine~~ ten classes of persons  
16 may use the word "Doctor", or an abbreviation thereof, and shall  
17 have the right to use, whether or not in conjunction with the word  
18 "Doctor", or any abbreviation thereof, the following designations:

19 1. The letters "D.P.M." or the words podiatrist, doctor of  
20 podiatry, podiatric surgeon, or doctor of podiatric medicine by a  
21 person licensed to practice podiatry under the Podiatric Medicine  
22 Practice Act;

23

24

1        2. The letters "D.C." or the words chiropractor or doctor of  
2 chiropractic by a person licensed to practice chiropractic under the  
3 Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice Act;

4        3. The letters "D.D.S." or "D.M.D.", as appropriate, or the  
5 words dentist, doctor of dental surgery, or doctor of dental  
6 medicine, as appropriate, by a person licensed to practice dentistry  
7 under the State Dental Act;

8        4. The letters "M.D." or the words surgeon, medical doctor, or  
9 doctor of medicine by a person licensed to practice medicine and  
10 surgery under the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure  
11 and Supervision Act;

12       5. The letters "O.D." or the words optometrist or doctor of  
13 optometry by a person licensed to practice optometry under Sections  
14 581 through 606 of this title;

15       6. The letters "D.O." or the words surgeon, osteopathic  
16 surgeon, osteopath, doctor of osteopathy, or doctor of osteopathic  
17 medicine by a person licensed to practice osteopathy under the  
18 Oklahoma Osteopathic Medicine Act;

19       7. The letters "Ph.D.", "Ed.D.", or "Psy.D." or the words  
20 psychologist, therapist, or counselor by a person licensed as a  
21 health service psychologist pursuant to the Psychologists Licensing  
22 Act;

23       8. The letters "Ph.D.", "Ed.D.", or other letters representing  
24 a doctoral degree or the words language pathologist, speech

1 pathologist, or speech and language pathologist by a person licensed  
2 as a speech and language pathologist pursuant to the Speech-Language  
3 Pathology and Audiology Licensing Act and who has earned a doctoral  
4 degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning  
5 in the field of speech and language pathology; ~~and~~

6 9. The letters "Ph.D.", "Ed.D.", or other letters representing  
7 a doctoral degree or the word audiologist by a person licensed as an  
8 audiologist pursuant to the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
9 Licensing Act and who has earned a doctoral degree from a regionally  
10 accredited institution of higher learning in the field of audiology;  
11 and

12 10. The letters "D.P.T." or the title Doctor of Physical  
13 Therapy by a person licensed to practice physical therapy under the  
14 Physical Therapy Practice Act who has earned a Doctor of Physical  
15 Therapy degree from a program approved by a national accrediting  
16 body recognized by the State Board of Medical Licensure and  
17 Supervision.

18 B. Unless otherwise specifically provided in a particular  
19 section or chapter of the Oklahoma Statutes, the word "doctor" or  
20 "doctors" shall mean and include each of the ~~nine~~ ten classes of  
21 persons listed in subsection A and the word "physician" or  
22 "physicians", as provided in subsection C of this section. Any  
23 other person using the term doctor, or any abbreviation thereof,

1 shall designate the authority under which the title is used or the  
2 college or honorary degree that gives rise to use of the title.

3 C. Unless otherwise specifically provided in a particular  
4 section or chapter of the Oklahoma Statutes, the word "physician" or  
5 "physicians" shall mean and include each of the classes of persons  
6 listed in paragraphs 1 through 6 of subsection A of this section and  
7 the word "doctor" or "doctors" as provided in subsection B of this  
8 section. The term "physician" shall not include any person  
9 specified in paragraphs 7 through ~~9~~ 10 of subsection A of this  
10 section unless such person is otherwise authorized to use such  
11 designation pursuant to this section.

12 D. For purposes of this section, "provider" means and includes:

13 1. Each of the ~~nine~~ ten classes of persons listed in subsection  
14 A of this section and referred to in subsections B and C of this  
15 section; and

16 2. Any other person using the term doctor or any abbreviation  
17 thereof.

18 E. Persons in each of the ~~nine~~ ten classes listed in subsection  
19 A of this section, and referred to in subsections B and C, of this  
20 section shall identify through written notice, which may include the  
21 wearing of a name tag, the type of license under which the doctor is  
22 practicing, utilizing the designations provided in subsections A, B  
23 and C of this section. Each applicable licensing board is  
24

1 authorized by rule to determine how its license holders may comply  
2 with this disclosure requirement.

3 F. 1. Any advertisement for health care services naming a  
4 provider shall:

5 a. identify the type of license of the doctor utilizing  
6 the letters or words set forth in this section if the  
7 person is one of the classes of persons listed in  
8 subsection A of this section, and referred to in  
9 subsections B and C of this section, or

10 b. utilize appropriate, accepted, and easily understood  
11 words or letters, which clearly show and indicate the  
12 branch of the healing art in which the person is  
13 licensed to practice and is engaged in, if the person  
14 is not one of the ~~nine~~ ten classes of persons listed  
15 in subsection A of this section, or referred to in  
16 subsections B and C of this section.

17 2. The term "advertisement" includes any printed document  
18 including letterhead, video clip, or audio clip created by, for, or  
19 at the direction of the provider or providers and advertised for the  
20 purpose of promoting the services of the doctor or provider.

21 G. 1. It shall be unlawful for any medical doctor, doctor of  
22 osteopathic medicine, doctor of dental surgery, doctor of dental  
23 medicine, doctor of optometry, doctor of podiatry, or doctor of  
24 chiropractic to make any deceptive or misleading statement, or

1 engage in any deceptive or misleading act, that deceives or misleads  
2 the public or a prospective or current patient, regarding the  
3 training and the license under which the person is authorized to  
4 practice.

5 2. The term "deceptive or misleading statement or act"  
6 includes, but is not limited to:

- 7 a. such statement or act in any advertising medium,
- 8 b. making a false statement regarding the education,  
9 skills, training, or licensure of a person, or
- 10 c. in any other way describing the profession, skills,  
11 training, expertise, education, or licensure of a  
12 person in a fashion that causes the public, a  
13 potential patient, or current patient to believe that  
14 the person is a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic  
15 medicine, doctor of dental surgery, doctor of dental  
16 medicine, doctor of optometry, doctor of podiatry, or  
17 doctor of chiropractic when that person does not hold  
18 such credentials.

19 H. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
20 person licensed in this state to perform speech pathology or  
21 audiology services is designated to be a practitioner of the healing  
22 art for purposes of making a referral for speech pathology or  
23 audiology services pursuant to the provisions of the Individuals  
24

1 with Disabilities Education Act, Amendment of 1997, Public Law 105-  
2 17, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 731.2, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 731.2. A. Proof that any class of persons identified  
6 in Section 725.2 of this title appends to their name the word  
7 "Doctor", the abbreviation "Dr.", or any other word, abbreviation or  
8 designation, which word, abbreviation or designation, indicate that  
9 such person is qualified for diagnosis or treatment, as herein  
10 defined, shall constitute prima facie evidence that such person is  
11 holding himself or herself out, within the meaning of ~~this act~~  
12 Sections 731.1 through 731.6 of this title, as qualified to engage  
13 in diagnosis or treatment.

14 B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a  
15 person specified in paragraphs 7 through ~~9~~ 10 of subsection A of  
16 Section 725.2 of this title from appending to such person's name the  
17 word "Doctor", so long as such person follows such name and  
18 designation with the letters signifying the recognized doctoral  
19 degrees specified in paragraphs 7 through ~~9~~ 10 of subsection A of  
20 Section 725.2 of this title.

21 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 731.5, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 731.5. Nothing in ~~this act~~ Sections 731.1 through 731.6  
24 of this title shall apply to:



1        1. Any commissioned officer in any of the healing arts licensed  
2 as such in the United States Army, Navy, Marines, Public Health  
3 Service, or Marine Hospital Service, in the discharge of the  
4 professional duties of such officer;

5        2. Any legally qualified person when engaged exclusively in the  
6 practice of the particular profession of such person, as defined by  
7 law;

8        3. Any licensed person practicing any of the healing arts from  
9 another state or territory, when in actual consultation with a  
10 licensed practitioner in this state;

11       4. Any physician's trained assistant who is assisting a  
12 licensed physician to render services within the licensed scope of  
13 practice of the physician, if the assistant is under the supervision  
14 and control of the physician;

15       5. Any student in any recognized school of the healing arts in  
16 carrying out prescribed courses of study provided such school is a  
17 recognized institution by the statutes of Oklahoma, and its  
18 practitioners are duly licensed as prescribed by law;

19       6. The practice of those who endeavor to prevent, or cure,  
20 disease or suffering, by spiritual means or prayer; or

21       7. Any legally qualified person specified in paragraphs 7  
22 through ~~9~~ 10 of subsection A of Section 725.2 of this title in the  
23 discharge of the professional duties of the person, so long as such  
24

1 person is employed by any state or governmental agency, or any  
2 recognized college or university.

3 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 887.14, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 887.14. Any person holding a license pursuant to the  
6 provisions of the Physical Therapy Practice Act as a physical  
7 therapist may use the title "Physical Therapist", "Registered  
8 Physical Therapist", or "Licensed Physical Therapist", or the  
9 letters "P.T.", "R.P.T.", or "L.P.T.", as authorized by the license  
10 obtained from the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.  
11 Any person holding a license pursuant to the provisions of the  
12 Physical Therapy Practice Act as a physical therapist who has earned  
13 a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from a program approved by a  
14 national accrediting body recognized by the Board may use the title  
15 "Doctor of Physical Therapy" or the letters "D.P.T.".

16 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-116, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1-116. When used in the Oklahoma Health Care  
19 Information System Act:

- 20 1. "Board" means the State Board of Health;  
21 2. "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health;  
22 3. "Department" means the State Department of Health;  
23 4. "Health care providers" means a hospital or related  
24 institution licensed pursuant to Section 1-702 of this title,

nursing facilities licensed pursuant to Section 1-1903 of this title, physicians as specified in paragraphs 1 through ~~7~~ 6 of subsection A of Section 725.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, physical therapists, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses and home health care providers licensed pursuant to the laws of this state;

5. "Third-party payor" means any entity, other than a purchaser, which is responsible for payment either to the purchaser or the health care provider for health care services rendered by the health care provider;

6. "Public-supported provider" means any public or private entity supported in whole or in part by federal or state funds, or any health care provider contracting with the state for providing health care services including, but not limited to, Medicaid;

7. "Identifying information" means a program identifying number assigned for purposes of statistical and data analysis, which protects and maintains patient and physician anonymity. Identifying information shall remain confidential as provided in Section 1-120 of this title;

8. "Information providers" means and includes health care providers, third-party payors or public-supported providers required to report or submit information to the Division of Health Care Information pursuant to the Oklahoma Health Care Information System Act;

1        9. "Division" means the Division of Health Care Information;

2 and

3        10. "Health care information system" means the system for  
4 receipt, collection, analysis, evaluation, processing, utilization  
5 and dissemination of health care data established and maintained by  
6 the Division of Health Care Information pursuant to the Oklahoma  
7 Health Care Information System Act.

8        SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

9  
10        58-2-3561            DC            2/10/2022 2:16:33 PM