



SB 81

REVISE MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN LICENSING BOARDS

BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF NURSING, CHIROPRACTORS, HEARING AID DISPENSERS,
REALTY REGULATION AND OUTFITTERS

SPONSOR - SEN. TOM FACEY SD 50

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2/10/2015
SB 81

SUMMARY OF CHANGES OR ACTUAL AMENDMENT LANGUAGE

The boards of Nursing (NUR), Chiropractors (CHI), Hearing Aid Dispensers (HAD), Realty Regulation (RRE), and Outfitters (OUT) are requesting changes to the board membership.

- NUR** - Increases from 4 to 5 the number of Registered Nurses (RN) and decreases from 3 to 2 the number of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) on the board. The total number of board members remains unchanged.
- CHI** - Board membership change from 4 to 5 members total, adding another chiropractor to the board; deletes the requirement that board members can't be from the same school of chiropractic.
- HAD** - Board membership increases from 2 to 3 licensed hearing aid dispensers, and increases from one to two public members, who are not otolaryngologists, HAD dispensers, or an audiologist. The total board members remain unchanged.
- RRE** - Deletes requirement that not more than 5 board members can be from the same political party.
- OUT** - Clarifies that the board members need to be licensed in their professional category

OVERVIEW OF DIVISION'S POSITION

- NUR** - There are currently about 18,600 RN and 3,500 LPN licenses issued by the board. The RN license requires more training and education to obtain, and the number of RNs in the field outnumbers the number of LPNs in the field by more than 5:1, so it is appropriate to adjust the number of board members representing these respective license types on the board accordingly.
- CHI** - A small, even numbered board can result in tie/split votes, and have difficulty obtaining a quorum for the full board and panel meetings. Adding a professional member provides another layer of depth to the knowledge base for board and panel discussions.
The current requirement that no two board members may be graduates of the same Chiropractic College is antiquated language and potentially restricts qualified Chiropractors from seeking appointment to the board.
- HAD** - The board's enacting statute is out of date since audiologists are no longer licensed by the board. This bill establishes that the make-up of the board will be three currently licensed industry members (hearing aid dispensers) and two public members: 1) one of whom may be a licensed hearing aid dispenser, an otolaryngologist, or a licensed audiologist; and 2) another public member who cannot have been any of those three things.
- RRE** - Party affiliation requirements are unnecessary and outdated. A requirement of party affiliation makes it much more difficult to find qualified board appointees.
- OUT** - Amends the qualifications of board members to separate members for hunting, fishing, and both hunting and fishing. The amendment clarifies board membership qualifications and correlates board membership qualifications to specific endorsements of a potential member's outfitter license. The amendment maintains that the make-up of the board will be four currently licensed industry members and three public members currently prescribed in law.



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DATA IN SUPPORT OF THE DIVISION'S POSITION

NUR - Board membership should reflect the licensees that they regulate. RNs outnumber LPNs 5:1.

CHI - Boards with even numbered members have split/tie votes.

Boards with a few members have a difficulty obtaining a quorum resulting in cancellations.

HAD - Previous legislation removed the requirement that licensed audiologists be licensed through HAD too, but did not address the board makeup. It is difficult to obtain an audiologist to be on the HAD board.

RRE - Party affiliation requirements have been removed from most boards.

OUT - Amends the qualifications of board members to separate members for hunting, fishing, and both hunting and fishing. Amendment is consistent with licensing and endorsement procedures and forms utilized to administer efficiently.

CONTACT INFORMATION

BOARD OF NURSING - Board Member: Heather O'Hara, Presiding Officer, 406-444-2146, hoharara@spetes.org

Staff: Dr. Cynthia Gustafson, Presiding Officer, 406-841-2380, cgustafson@mt.gov

BOARD OF CHIROPRACTORS

CHI - Board Member: Cathleen Fellows, Presiding Officer, 406-656-4500, fellowschiro@yahoo.com

Staff: Dennis Clark, Executive Officer, 406-841-2390, declar@mt.gov

BOARD OF HEARING AID DISPENSERS

HAD - Board Member: Al McLees, Presiding Officer, 406-788-2586, amclees@eah.net

Staff: Linda Grief, Executive Officer, 406-841-2395, lgrief@mt.gov

BOARD OF REALTY REGULATION

RRE - Board Member: Patrick Goodover, Industry Member, 406-727-8222 or cell 406-799-2030, sbp@centric.net

Staff: Marilyn Willson, Executive Officer, 406-841-2320, mwillson@mt.gov

BOARD OF OUTFITTERS

OUT - Board Member: Robin Cunningham, Presiding Officer, 406-570-7520, robincham@gmail.com

Staff: Steve Gallus, Executive Officer, 406-841-2370, sgallus@mt.gov