

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

101st LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S. P. 461, L. D. 1288, Bill, "An Act

Revising the Laws Relating to Registration of Physicians and Surgeons, and Medical Education."

Amend said Bill in section 7 by striking out in the last 2 sentences the underlined words "Hearing Officer or"

Further amend said Bill by inserting after section 7, the following underlined section:

'Sec. 7-A. Suspension during mental illness. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if any person licensed under this chapter becomes mentally ill and he is under the care and treatment of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State, said attending physician shall make an immediate report to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections whether or not the physician who has been diagnosed as being mentally ill is admitted to any mental institution or any private hospital either by involuntary or voluntary commitment procedures. The Department of Mental Health and Corrections shall immediately cause an investigation to be made into the mental condition of the physician alleged to have been diagnosed as mentally ill and shall file a report with the Board of Registration in Medicine as to whether or not said physician's mental illness seriously interferes with his ability to practice medicine. If the report indicates that said physician's ability to practice is seriously interfered with the board shall order notice of a hearing which notice shall be given 5 days prior to the hearing and the board after hearing may then by 2/3 vote suspend the license of said physician to practice medicine and surgery. The board may voluntarily restore the license to said

(Filing # 162)

physician when it receives a report from the Department of Mental Health and Corrections that the mental illness no longer interferes with the physician's ability to practice medicine and any physician whose license has been suspended as above provided may petition for the restoration of said license at any time and the board may restore his license after hearing. When a physician is hospitalized or treated for mental illness outside of the State of Maine, and the board learns of this fact, the board may request the Department of Mental Health and Corrections to review the status of the physician alleged to be so mentally ill and said department shall make a similar report and the board may proceed as outlined above.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of the 2nd underlined sentence of section 8 and inserting in place thereof the following underlined sentence:

'Any person licensed under chapter 71 may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to his name, as provided in chapter 71, section 7, or any member of the Maine State Chiropractors Association or any chiropractor duly licensed by this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to his name when accompanied by the word "Chiropractor", or any dentist duly licensed by this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to his name, or any optometrist duly licensed under the laws of this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to his name when accompanied by the word "Optometrist," or any podiatrist duly licensed under the laws of this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to his name when accompanied by the word "Podiatrist" or "Chiropodist," when permitted such right by the laws governing the practice of podiatry.'