

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTH REVISION

THE  
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

PASSED SEPTEMBER 20, 1944, AND TAKING EFFECT  
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VOLUME I



By the Authority of the Legislature

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holder thereof shall be entitled to 30 days' notice of the charges against him or her, and to a full and fair hearing thereon.

**Sec. 6. Credential committee to determine qualifications of registered nurses for public health nursing; definition of public health nursing.** R. S. c. 21, § 23. 1931, c. 216, Art. III. A credential committee, which shall be a subcommittee of the board, shall be appointed annually to act upon the applications and qualifications of nurses employed in public health work. This committee shall be composed of 3 registered nurses, one from the board, one from the public health section of the Maine state nurses' association, and one from the division of public health nursing of the state bureau of health. These members shall be appointed by their respective organizations.

No graduate nurse shall be employed in public health nursing unless registered by the board, and unless her qualifications for such work shall have been determined and approved by said credential committee.

Public health nursing within the meaning of this section shall be deemed to include nursing done by any graduate nurse in any form of social work in which the health of the public is concerned.

**Sec. 7. Unlawful practice; penalty.** R. S. c. 21, § 24. 1935, c. 127, § 2. Nurses who have not been registered as hereinbefore provided shall be known as practical nurses. No person shall practice professional nursing in this state as a registered nurse without having a certificate of registration. No nurse shall continue to practice as a registered nurse without renewing his or her certificate, or after his or her certificate shall have been revoked. A nurse who has received such certificate and pin shall be styled and known as a "Registered Nurse," and no other person shall assume such title, use the pin, the abbreviation "R. N.," or any other words, letters, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse. Whoever violates any provision of this chapter or wilfully makes a false representation to said board in applying for a certificate of registration shall be punished by fine of not more than \$100, and shall have his or her certificate revoked; provided that nothing in this chapter shall apply to the acts of any person nursing the sick, who does not represent himself or herself to be a registered nurse. The board shall cause to be presented to the proper prosecuting officer evidence of any violation of the provisions of this chapter, and may incur any necessary expenses in the performance of this duty, which expenses shall be paid out of the receipts of said board.

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## CHAPTER 64.

### REGISTRATION OF OSTEOPATHS.

**Sec. 1. Board of osteopathic examination and registration; qualification; tenure; vacancies.** R. S. c. 21, § 60. The board of osteopathic examination and registration, as heretofore established, and hereinafter in this chapter called the "board", shall consist of 5 persons appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council. Said persons shall be residents of this state, shall be graduates of a legally chartered osteopathic college or university having

the power to confer degrees in osteopathy, shall have been at the time of their appointment actively engaged in the practice of their profession for a period of at least 3 years. Each appointment shall be for the period of 5 years as the terms of the present members expire. Any vacancy in said board caused by death, resignation, or for any other cause except completion of a full term of service shall be filled by the like appointment of a person qualified as aforesaid to hold office during the unexpired term of the member whose place he fills. Any member of said board may be removed from office, for cause, by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council.

**Sec. 2. Meetings; organization; duties; and powers.** R. S. c. 21, § 61; c. 125, §§ 55, 56. 1931, c. 216, Art. II, § 15. 1943, c. 320, § 4. The board shall meet on the 2nd Tuesday of June of each year at such time and place as the chairman may designate for the purpose of organization. They shall elect one of their members as chairman for a term of 1 year, and one of their members as secretary and treasurer, to hold such office at the pleasure of the board. The treasurer shall receive all fees, charges, and assessments payable to the board, and account for and pay over the same according to law. Said board shall hold regular meetings at least twice in each year for the purpose of considering applications, examining applicants, and such other business as may properly come before the board, the time and place of such meeting to be determined by the board. Special meetings may be called at the pleasure of the chairman, and in case of the death or inability of the chairman, the secretary may call special meetings. Said board shall cause a seal of suitable inscription to be procured and to be affixed to such papers as may require such seal, shall keep a correct record of all its proceedings, and shall have power to make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, as it may deem necessary for the successful enforcement of its authority and the performance of its duties. The chairman and secretary shall be empowered to administer oaths in matters connected with the duties of said board. The records of the said board shall include, among other things, a record of all moneys received and disbursed by said board, also a list of all applicants for certificates, giving the name and location of the institution granting a degree of doctor of osteopathy to the applicant, and the fact shall be recorded whether the applicant was granted or denied a certificate. Said records, or duplicates thereof, shall always be open to inspection in the office of the secretary of state during regular office hours, and shall be prima facie evidence of all matters recorded therein. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but no certificate to practice osteopathy shall be granted except on an affirmative vote of at least 3 members of the board.

See c. 14, §§ 2-4, re bond of treasurer; c. 15, § 27, re fees, fund for payment of expenses of board, etc.

**Sec. 3. Compensation and expenses of board.** R. S. c. 21, § 67; c. 125, § 53. 1931, c. 216, Art. II, § 15. 1941, c. 46, § 3. 1943, c. 155, § 3. Each member of the board shall receive \$10 per day for the time actually spent and his necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of his duties. All requisitions for the payment of money shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of said board.

**Sec. 4. Osteopaths to be registered; qualifications; fees.** R. S. c. 21, § 62. 1943, c. 155, § 1. Any person, before engaging in the practice of osteopathy in this state, shall make application for a certificate to practice osteopathy to the board, on a form prescribed by said board. Said application shall be filed with

the secretary of the board, at least 7 days before the date of examination, together with a deposit of \$25, which said deposit shall be returned to the applicant in case the application is rejected. Each applicant must be at least 21 years of age and shall present a diploma from a high school, academy, state normal school, college, or university, or otherwise satisfy the members of the board of sufficient prior academic education. The applicant shall also present a diploma granted by a legally chartered osteopathic college or university in good standing and having the power to confer degrees in osteopathy, which diploma shall show that it was granted on personal attendance of the applicant and completion of a course of not less than 9 months in a year for 4 separate years. All applicants must also present a certificate of good moral character, and such other reasonable and proper facts as the board in its blank application may require.

See § 5, re osteopaths registered in other states; 1943, c. 155, § 1, re course during war emergency.

**Sec. 5. Examination; registration of osteopaths licensed in other states; fee; board may refuse to grant license.** R. S. c. 21, § 63. 1943, c. 155, § 2. The board shall then require the applicant to submit to an examination as to his or her other qualifications for the practice of osteopathy, which examination shall include the subjects of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, bacteriology, toxicology, pathology, dietetics, diagnosis, hygiene, obstetrics, gynecology, surgery, and principles and practice of osteopathy, and such other subjects as the board may deem necessary. If such examination is passed in a manner satisfactory to the board, then the board shall issue to the said applicant a certificate granting him or her the right to practice osteopathy in this state. If such applicant fails to pass such examination, he or she shall be entitled to 1 reexamination within 1 year thereafter without further charge. Every graduate of a reputable school of osteopathy who has been strictly examined and thereafter licensed to practice osteopathy in another state, which has the same or equivalent educational standards as this state, may be licensed to practice osteopathy in this state upon the payment of \$25 and the production to the board of his or her diploma, the license obtained in such other state, and satisfactory evidence of good moral character; but the board may, at its discretion, require an examination of any such applicant. The board may refuse to grant a certificate to any person convicted of a felony, or who has been guilty of grossly unprofessional conduct, or who is addicted to any vice to such a degree as to render such person unfit to practice osteopathy, and may, after due notice and hearing, revoke a certificate already issued for like cause.

See § 7, re practice of obstetrics and surgery.

**Section. 6. Certificates of osteopathic physicians to be renewed; fee.** 1939, c. 206. 1943, c. 131. Every osteopathic physician legally licensed to practice osteopathy and in practice in this state shall, on or before the 1st day of January of each year, pay to the secretary of the board a fee of \$2 for the renewal of his or her certificate to practice; provided that in addition to the payment of such renewal fee, each licensee so applying for the renewal of his or her certificate shall furnish to said board satisfactory evidence that he or she has attended at least 2 days of the annual educational program conducted by the Maine osteopathic association, or its equivalent to the approval of said board, in the year preceding. The secretary of said board shall send a written notice of the foregoing requirement to each such osteopathic physician, at least 30 days prior to each said January 1, directed to the last known address of such licensee, enclos-

ing therewith proper blank forms for application for said renewal. If any such licensee shall fail to so furnish said board such evidence of said attendance at said educational program and shall fail to pay the said renewal fee, he or she shall automatically forfeit his or her right to practice osteopathy in this state and his or her license therefor shall be cancelled; provided, however, that the secretary of said board may reinstate him or her upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence of postgraduate study approved by said board as the equivalent of such attendance, and upon the payment of said renewal fee.

See 1943, c. 131, re suspension during war emergency of attendance at educational program.

**Sec. 7. Certificate to be publicly displayed; rights under certificate. R. S. c. 21, § 64.** When the board shall have granted to a person the certificate mentioned in section 5, such certificate shall designate the holder as an osteopathic physician, and shall be publicly displayed at the person's principal place of business as long as such person shall continue to practice osteopathy for gain or hire. Such certificate shall entitle the person to whom it is granted to practice osteopathy in any county in this state, in all its branches as taught and practiced by the recognized schools and colleges of osteopathy, with the right to use such drugs as are necessary in the practice of surgery and obstetrics, including narcotics, antiseptics, and anesthetics. Provided, however, that no osteopathic physician shall practice major surgery or obstetrics, who has not graduated from an accredited osteopathic school or college, after a 4-year course therein, or taken sufficient postgraduate proper courses to constitute the equivalent thereof, properly evidenced to said board; and that no person heretofore registered under the provisions of this chapter shall practice obstetrics or surgery without passing an examination in surgery before said board. Any person to whom a certificate has been granted under the provisions of section 5, may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to his name, when accompanied by the word "osteopath."

See § 9; c. 64, § 7, re use of word "Doctor" by osteopaths.

**Sec. 8. Additional exceptions. R. S. c. 21, § 65.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrain or restrict any legally licensed physician, surgeon, dentist, or nurse in the practice of his or her profession, nor shall this chapter apply to masseurs in their particular sphere of labor who publicly represent themselves as such, nor to any commissioned medical officer in the United States army, navy, or public health service, in the performance of his duties as such; nor to prohibit gratuitous service or the rendering of assistance in emergency cases.

**Sec. 9. Penalties for practicing without certificate; exceptions. R. S. c. 21, § 66.** Any person who shall practice, or attempt to practice, or use the science or system of osteopathy in treating diseases of the human body, or any person who shall buy, sell, or fraudulently obtain any diploma, license, record, or registration to practice osteopathy, or who shall aid or abet in such selling, or fraudulent obtaining; or who shall practice osteopathy under cover of any diploma, license, record, or registration to practice osteopathy, illegally obtained, or signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent representations; or who after conviction of felony shall practice osteopathy, or who shall use any of the forms of letters, "Osteopath," "Osteopathist," "Osteopathy," "Osteopathic Practitioner," "Doctor of Osteopathy," "Diplomate in Osteopathy," "D. O.," "D. Sc. O.," or any other title or letters, either alone or with qualifying words or phrases, under such circumstances as to induce the belief that the person who uses such terms is

engaged in the practice of osteopathy, without having complied with the provisions of this chapter, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50, nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days, nor for more than 11 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; provided that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any lawfully qualified osteopathic physician in any other state meeting a registered osteopathic practitioner in this state for consultation.

**Sec. 10. Board to revoke or suspend license after investigation and hearing.** R. S. c. 21, § 68. The board, its members, or agents shall investigate all complaints and all cases of non-compliance with, or violations of the provisions of this chapter relating to the registration of osteopathic physicians and shall bring all such cases to the notice of the proper prosecuting officer. Said board, after a conviction before the proper court for crime in the course of professional business of any person to whom a certificate has been issued by them and after hearing, may, by a vote of 4/5 of the entire board, revoke the certificate and cancel the registration of the person to whom the same was issued. Said board may also suspend or revoke any certificate by a 4/5 vote of the entire board, in any case where such certificate has been wrongly obtained or for any fraud connected with the said registration.

**Sec. 11. Board to make annual report to governor.** R. S. c. 21, § 69. The board shall annually on or before the 1st day of July in each year make a report to the governor containing a full and complete account of all its official acts during the preceding year; also a statement of its receipts and disbursements and such comments or suggestions as it may deem essential.

See c. 14, § 5, re uniform fiscal year.

**Sec. 12. Certain laws applicable to osteopaths.** R. S. c. 21, § 70. All laws, rules, or regulations now in force in this state, or which shall hereafter be enacted, for the purpose of regulating the reporting of contagious diseases, deaths, or births to the proper authorities, and to which the registered practitioner of medicine is subject, shall apply equally to the practitioner of osteopathy, and all reports and health certificates made by osteopathic physicians shall be accepted by the officers of the departments to which the same are made equally with the reports and health certificates of doctors of medicine.

See c. 22, §§ 61, 71-84, 90-93, re reporting of diseases and deaths.

**Sec. 13. Condition attached to hospital appropriations.** 1933, c. 178. All hospitals in this state which receive any public funds appropriated to assist in the care of residents of the state shall, subject to the approval of the boards of trustees of the respective hospitals, admit osteopathic physicians who are in good standing and licensed to practice obstetrics and surgery according to the laws of the state, to treat therein their own paying patients in private rooms; provided, however, that any such hospital may, at its option, set aside certain rooms therein for the use of such physicians as an osteopathic unit.