

SB29 INTRODUCED



1 SB29
2 ARL6Z77-1
3 By Senator Woods
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 17-Dec-25



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, a member of the State Board
6 of Chiropractic Examiners must be a graduate of a
7 chiropractic school that required actual attendance in
8 the school to graduate.

9 This bill would remove the requirement that, for
10 purposes of board member qualification, the school that
11 a board member graduated from must have required actual
12 attendance to graduate.

13 Under existing law, applicants for a license to
14 practice chiropractic in the state must be a graduate
15 of a chiropractic school that teaches only attendance
16 courses and requires a four-year standard college
17 course.

18 This bill would remove the requirements that
19 such schools teach only attendance courses and require
20 a four-year standard college course.

21 Under existing law, certain applicants for
22 licensure must have a bachelor's degree or an academic
23 graduate degree and have completed a standardized test
24 commensurate with the graduate degree.

25 This bill would remove the requirement that
26 applicants must hold a bachelor's or other academic
27 graduate degree to qualify for licensure.

28 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,



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technical revisions to update the existing code
language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners;
to amend Section 34-24-140, as last amended by Act 2025-335,
Regular Session, and Sections 34-24-160 and 34-24-161, Code of
Alabama 1975, to revise the requirements for serving on the
board; to revise the qualifications that applicants must
satisfy for licensure; and to make nonsubstantive, technical
revisions to update the existing code language to current
style

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-24-140, as last amended by Act
2025-335, Regular Session, and Sections 34-24-160 and
34-24-161, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
follows:

"§34-24-140

(a) There is established a State Board of Chiropractic
Examiners. The board shall be composed of nine members. Eight
members of the board shall be active licensed chiropractors
elected as provided in this section. Seven of the elected
members shall be elected one from each congressional district
in this state except as otherwise provided in Section



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34-24-141. Any candidate for or member of the board shall be a resident of the appropriate congressional district except one candidate for the board shall be elected from the state at-large. One elected member of the board shall be elected from the state at-large and shall be an African-American.

(b) Each elected member of or candidate for the board shall meet all of the following qualifications:

(1) ~~Be~~ Is a resident of this state who has resided in this state for at least five years.

(2) ~~Be~~ Is a graduate of a chartered chiropractic school or college ~~that required actual attendance in the school as a prerequisite to graduation.~~

(3) ~~Currently is~~ Is currently engaged in the clinical practice of chiropractic and has been engaged in the clinical practice in this state for at least the five immediately preceding years.

(4) Has renewed his or her license to practice chiropractic by September 30 of the year in which an election shall take place.

(5) ~~Be~~ Is of good moral character.

(6) Is not presently on probation relating to the practice of chiropractic in any state.

(c) One member of the board shall be a consumer member appointed by the Governor. Neither the consumer member nor his or her spouse may be a chiropractor. The consumer member may not be an immediate family member of a chiropractor nor may he or she be employed in the chiropractic field.

(d) (1) The elected members of the board shall be



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85 elected as provided in this subsection. In August of any year
86 that the term of a member of the board expires, the board
87 shall send a notice of the election of the board and the
88 method of qualifying as a candidate to each active licensed
89 chiropractor in the district where the vacancy occurs
90 according to his or her permanent mailing address.

91 (2) The election provided for in this subsection shall
92 be conducted by an independent agency unless there is only one
93 candidate for the board ~~and in this situation~~, in which case
94 the board shall announce the results. The board shall set a
95 period for candidates to qualify and the date for the ballots
96 to be sent. Candidates shall qualify by submitting their name
97 to the executive director of the board during the qualifying
98 period which shall be not less than 20 days nor more than 40
99 days after the notice is sent.

100 (3) Not less than 14 days after the deadline for
101 qualification, each licensed chiropractor shall be sent a
102 ballot for the appropriate congressional district where the
103 vacancy is to be filled. In order to be counted, the ballots
104 ~~shall~~ must be returned and time stamped not later than 14
105 business days after the ballots were sent by the independent
106 agency.

107 (4) The results of the election shall be certified by
108 the independent agency. The ballots shall be maintained for a
109 period of six months by the independent agency. The candidate
110 with a simple majority of the votes cast in each respective
111 congressional district shall be elected to the board position
112 for that congressional district. ~~In the event~~ If no candidate



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113 in a district receives a majority of the votes, the board
114 shall hold a run-off election in the same manner as provided
115 in this subsection.

116 (5) The members of the board shall take office at the
117 first meeting of the board after the election and the
118 executive director of the board shall set the date of the
119 first meeting of the board after the election of the new
120 board.

121 (e) Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board, ~~whether by~~
122 ~~death, resignation of a member, or other cause~~, the vacancy
123 shall be filled in the same manner as the original election or
124 appointment for the remainder of the term of office.

125 (f) (1) The board may employ investigators, inspectors,
126 attorneys, and any other agents, employees, and assistants as
127 may be necessary, and may use any other means necessary to
128 ~~bring about and maintain a rigid administration and~~
129 ~~enforcement of~~ administer and enforce state and federal law.

130 (2) The board may issue subpoenas and compel the
131 attendance of witnesses and the production of all necessary
132 papers, books, records, documentary evidence and materials, or
133 other evidence. Any individual failing or refusing to appear
134 or testify regarding any matter about which he or she may be
135 lawfully questioned or to produce any papers, books, records,
136 documentary evidence or materials, or other evidence in the
137 matter to be heard, after having been required by order ~~of the~~
138 ~~board or by a~~ or subpoena of the board to do so, upon
139 application by the board to any circuit judge of this state,
140 may be ordered to comply therewith. Upon failure to comply



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with the order of the circuit judge, the court may compel obedience by attachment as for contempt as in case of disobedience of a similar order or subpoena issued by the court. The president or secretary-treasurer of the board may issue subpoenas, and any board member may administer oaths to witnesses or take their affirmation. A subpoena or other process of paper may be served upon any person named therein, anywhere within this state, by any officer authorized to serve subpoenas or other process or paper in civil actions, in the same manner as is prescribed by law for subpoenas issued out of the circuit courts of this state, the fees and mileage and other costs to be paid as the board directs.

(g) The board shall employ an executive director who shall be responsible for the administration of board policy. The executive director may be licensed to practice chiropractic in this state.

(h) The board shall publish annually a directory listing all permit holders and all persons licensed to practice chiropractic in this state. Copies of the directory shall be made available from the executive director at a cost set by rule of the board.

(i) The membership of the board shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(j) Each member of the board shall meet all qualifications to be a candidate for his or her seat on the board during his or her entire term. Any member who fails to continue to meet the qualifications for his or her seat shall



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forfeit his or her seat ~~on the board~~ and resign or the ~~board~~ seat shall be declared vacant by the board."

"§34-24-160

(a) Any ~~person~~ individual wishing the right to practice chiropractic shall make application to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners in the form as the board may prescribe.

(b) (1) In addition to other requirements established by law and for the purpose of determining an applicant's suitability for a license to practice chiropractic, each applicant shall submit a complete set of fingerprints to the ~~State Board of Chiropractic Examiners~~ board.

(2) The board shall submit the fingerprints provided by each applicant for a license to practice chiropractic to the ~~Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI)~~ Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency. The fingerprints shall be forwarded by the ~~ABI~~ board or agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ~~(FBI)~~ for a state and national criminal history ~~record~~ background check. Costs associated with conducting a criminal history background check shall be borne by the applicant.

(3) The ~~State Board of Chiropractic Examiners~~ board shall keep information received pursuant to this section confidential, except that ~~such~~ any information received and relied upon in denying the issuance of a license ~~to practice chiropractic in this state~~ may be disclosed as ~~may be~~ necessary to support the denial. This requirement also shall apply to any person who is not licensed as a chiropractor who applies for a permit pursuant to Section 34-24-123(b).

(c) Each applicant shall be of good moral character,



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197 and a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen ~~of the~~
198 ~~United States, a person~~ an individual who is legally present
199 in the United States with appropriate documentation from the
200 federal government.

201 (d) Each applicant shall be a graduate of a chartered
202 chiropractic school or college accredited by the ~~council of~~
203 ~~chiropractic education which teaches only attendance courses~~
204 ~~and requires a minimum four-year standard college course~~
205 Council of Chiropractic Education or successor entity.

206 ~~(e) An applicant for licensure who graduated from~~
207 ~~chiropractic college after January 1, 2010, shall have a~~
208 ~~bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.~~
209 ~~Absent a bachelor's degree, the requirement may be met by an~~
210 ~~academic graduate degree from a regionally accredited college~~
211 ~~or university and proof that the applicant has taken a~~
212 ~~nationally recognized standardized test commensurate with that~~
213 ~~applicant's graduate degree.~~

214 ~~(f)~~ (e) ~~The~~ An application shall be signed by the
215 applicant in his or her own handwriting, ~~and shall~~ be
216 notarized, and ~~shall~~ recite the history of the applicant's
217 educational qualifications, how long he or she has studied
218 chiropractic, what collateral branches, if any, he or she has
219 studied, and the length of time he or she has engaged in
220 clinical practice, with proof thereof in the form of diplomas,
221 certificates, and transcripts, ~~etc.~~

222 ~~(g)~~ (f) Each applicant shall submit with his or her
223 application satisfactory evidence of good character and
224 reputation.



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~~(h)~~ (g) Each applicant for licensure shall pay to the board a license application fee of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) and not more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), ~~the exact amount to be fixed annually by resolution of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners~~ as set by rule of the board. The fee shall accompany the application. ~~A fee of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) and not more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), the exact amount to be fixed by resolution of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners shall be paid for any subsequent examination."~~

"§34-24-161

(a) (1) Each applicant, ~~who matriculated into a chiropractic college after January 1, 1973, must~~ shall pass parts one and two of the examination administered by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners or other national examination as approved by the board. In addition, each applicant must pass an examination administered by the board on this article and the rules of the board.

(2) Each applicant for examination shall pay to the board an examination application fee of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) as set by rule of the board. The fee shall be due for each examination application.

(b) The ~~State Board of Chiropractic Examiners~~ board shall prescribe rules ~~and regulations~~ regarding which national examination shall be administered, the conduct of and times and places of examinations, and requirements for successful completion of examinations. A license shall be issued for each



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applicant who successfully completes the examination.

(c) ~~Irrespective of the requirements in subsections~~
Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the board may license
an applicant if ~~the applicant~~ he or she is licensed in another
state that, in the opinion of the board, has standards of
practice or licensure equal to or stricter than the
requirements imposed by this article. ~~If the applicant~~
~~graduated from chiropractic college after January 1, 2010, he~~
~~or she must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited~~
~~college or university. Absent a bachelor's degree, the~~
~~requirement may be met by an academic graduate degree from a~~
~~regionally accredited college or university and proof that the~~
~~applicant has taken a nationally recognized standardized test~~
~~commensurate with that applicant's graduate degree.~~

(d) Upon completion of all requirements for licensure,
an applicant shall be issued a license. The fee for issuance
of a license shall be established by rule of the board. Each
license shall be dated and numbered in the order of issuance
and shall be signed by the executive director and the
president of the board.

(e) Replacement licenses:

(1) Any licensee whose license is lost or destroyed may
be issued a replacement license upon making application to the
board. The application must be accompanied by an affidavit
setting out the facts concerning the loss or destruction.

(2) ~~Name change.~~ Any licensee whose name is changed by
marriage or court order may surrender his or her license and
apply for a replacement license.



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281 (3) The fee for any replacement license shall be
282 established by rule of the board.

283 (f) Each licensed chiropractor who is actively engaged
284 in practice or who holds himself or herself out as a
285 chiropractor shall place or cause to be placed in a
286 conspicuous place at the entrance of his or her office or
287 place in which he or she practices a sign in intelligible
288 lettering not less than one inch in height containing the name
289 of the chiropractor and in lettering no smaller than half the
290 size of the name of the chiropractor, the words "CHIROPRACTOR"
291 or "CHIROPRACTIC." The intent of this requirement is that the
292 office of the licensee be clearly identified by name and
293 profession.

294 (g) Any licensee or permittee upon request shall be
295 issued a duplicate license upon payment of a fee ~~to be~~ as
296 established by rule of the board."

297 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
298 1, 2026.