

SB210 INTRODUCED



1 SB210
2 9JCV4PB-1
3 By Senator Woods
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 27-Jan-26



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 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
22 technical revisions to update the existing code
23 language to current style.

24
25
26 A BILL
27 TO BE ENTITLED
28 AN ACT



SB210 INTRODUCED

Relating to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners; to amend Section 34-24-140, as last amended by Act 2025-335, 2025 Regular Session, and Section 34-24-160, 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, 2025 Regular Session, and Section 34-24-160, 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 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.



SB210 INTRODUCED

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

(2) The election provided for in this subsection shall be conducted by an independent agency unless there is only one candidate for the board ~~and in this situation,~~ in which case



SB210 INTRODUCED

the board shall announce the results. The board shall set a period for candidates to qualify and the date for the ballots to be sent. Candidates shall qualify by submitting their name to the executive director of the board during the qualifying period which shall be not less than 20 days nor more than 40 days after the notice is sent.

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

(4) The results of the election shall be certified by the independent agency. The ballots shall be maintained for a period of six months by the independent agency. The candidate with a simple majority of the votes cast in each respective congressional district shall be elected to the board position for that congressional district. ~~In the event~~ If no candidate in a district receives a majority of the votes, the board shall hold a run-off election in the same manner as provided in this subsection.

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

(e) Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board, ~~whether by~~



SB210 INTRODUCED

~~death, resignation of a member, or other cause~~, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original election or appointment for the remainder of the term of office.

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

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



SB210 INTRODUCED

141 same manner as is prescribed by law for subpoenas issued out
142 of the circuit courts of this state, the fees and mileage and
143 other costs to be paid as the board directs.

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

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

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

156 (j) Each member of the board shall meet all
157 qualifications to be a candidate for his or her seat on the
158 board during his or her entire term. Any member who fails to
159 continue to meet the qualifications for his or her seat shall
160 forfeit his or her seat ~~on the board~~ and resign or the ~~board~~
161 seat shall be declared vacant by the board."

162 "§34-24-160

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

166 (b) (1) In addition to other requirements established by
167 law and for the purpose of determining an applicant's
168 suitability for a license to practice chiropractic, each



SB210 INTRODUCED

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

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



SB210 INTRODUCED

(e) An applicant for licensure who graduated from chiropractic college after January 1, 2010, shall 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.

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

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

(h) (1) 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.

(2) 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~~



SB210 INTRODUCED

225 ~~Examiners~~ as set by rule of the board, shall be paid for any
226 subsequent examination."

227 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
228 1, 2026.