

**Senate File 210 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 210  
BY PETERSEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the licensing, regulation, and discipline of  
2 licensed health professionals.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **147.11A Issuance of licenses —**  
2 **investigation — suspension.**

3 1. a. Prior to issuing a license to an applicant, a board  
4 shall conduct a search of the national practitioner data bank to  
5 review the available record and determine whether the information  
6 in the data bank constitutes grounds to decline to issue a  
7 license to an applicant or to conduct an additional investigation  
8 of the applicant prior to issuing a license.

9 b. Beginning on July 1, 2026, prior to issuing a license to  
10 an applicant, a board shall conduct a search of the integrated  
11 database created pursuant to subsection 3 to review the available  
12 record and determine whether the information in the integrated  
13 database constitutes grounds to decline to issue a license to  
14 an applicant or to conduct an additional investigation of the  
15 applicant prior to issuing a license.

16 2. Prior to issuing a license to an applicant, the board  
17 shall conduct a search of the child abuse registry and sex  
18 offender registry. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
19 law to the contrary, if either search results in a positive  
20 identification of the applicant, the board shall not issue a  
21 license to the applicant.

22 3. No later than July 1, 2026, the department of inspections,  
23 appeals, and licensing shall create and make available to the  
24 public at no cost an integrated online database of all licensees,  
25 including all records available through the national practitioner  
26 data bank and all state disciplinary actions and records. The  
27 integrated database shall include a clearly identifiable function  
28 that identifies whether each licensee has had a complaint filed  
29 against the licensee for sexual misconduct or sexual assault, as  
30 those terms are defined in section 147.58, substance use, medical  
31 malpractice, or substandard practice.

32 4. If a board identifies a founded case of sexual misconduct,  
33 as defined in section 147.58, by an applicant for a license,  
34 the board shall not issue a license to the applicant unless ten  
35 years have elapsed since the conduct giving rise to the case,

1 and the applicant has completed a problematic sexualized behavior  
2 treatment program.

3 5. If a board identifies a founded case of sexual misconduct,  
4 as defined in section 147.58, by a licensee, the board shall  
5 immediately suspend the license of the licensee until ten years  
6 have elapsed since the conduct giving rise to the case, and  
7 the licensee has completed a problematic sexualized behavior  
8 treatment program.

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **147.11B Duty to report — continuing**  
10 **education.**

11 A licensee shall report any other licensee to the relevant  
12 board that the licensee knows to have violated a law or rule  
13 regarding sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or substance use  
14 within five days of obtaining such knowledge. Each board shall  
15 require each licensee to complete at least one hour of continuing  
16 education per licensure renewal cycle on the licensee's duty to  
17 report. A failure to report as required by this section shall  
18 constitute grounds for discipline.

19 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **147.57 Employee discipline —**  
20 **insurance — reporting.**

21 1. Each person who employs a licensee shall submit to  
22 the board who licenses the person information regarding all  
23 disciplinary actions taken against the licensee.

24 2. Upon the receipt of a complaint against a licensee, a  
25 board shall provide a copy of the complaint to the licensee's  
26 employer, all insurance carriers who have billed for the  
27 licensee's services in the past year, and the licensee's medical  
28 malpractice insurance company, if applicable, if the board  
29 receives the express written permission of the complainant.

30 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **147.58 Licensee discipline —**  
31 **problematic sexual behavior.**

32 1. For the purposes of this section:

33 a. "Sexual assault" means any type of sexual activity or  
34 contact without consent, including through use of physical force,  
35 threats of force, coercion, and manipulation.

1     *b.* "Sexual misconduct" means a behavior that exploits the  
2 health professional-patient relationship in a sexual way. Sexual  
3 behavior may be verbal or physical, can occur in person or  
4 virtually, and may include expressions of thoughts and feelings  
5 or gestures that are of a sexual nature or that a patient or  
6 surrogate may reasonably construe as sexual. "Sexual misconduct"  
7 includes gestures or language that are seductive, sexually  
8 suggestive, or sexually demeaning to a patient.

9     2. Upon receipt of a complaint of sexual misconduct against  
10 a licensee, a board shall issue a probationary order against  
11 the licensee requiring supervised practice until the board has  
12 completed its investigation of the complaint.

13     3. Upon receipt of a complaint of sexual assault against a  
14 licensee, a board shall immediately suspend the license of the  
15 licensee until the board has completed its investigation of the  
16 complaint.

17     4. Each board shall prioritize investigations of sexual  
18 misconduct and sexual assault such that, on average,  
19 investigation takes no longer than thirty days after the date of  
20 receipt of the complaint.

21     5. *a.* A board shall immediately suspend the license of  
22 a licensee charged with a sexual abuse offense under chapter  
23 709, or a human trafficking offense under chapter 710A, or a  
24 substantially similar statute in another state, regardless of  
25 whether the activity occurred within the scope of practice of the  
26 licensed profession.

27     *b.* A board shall permanently revoke the license of a licensee  
28 convicted of a sexual abuse offense under chapter 709, or a  
29 human trafficking offense under chapter 710A, or a substantially  
30 similar statute in another state, regardless of whether the  
31 activity occurred within the scope of practice of the licensed  
32 profession. A board shall not reinstate a license revoked  
33 pursuant to this paragraph unless the conviction is reversed or  
34 overturned.

35     6. *a.* A law enforcement officer shall provide all

1 information gathered pursuant to an investigation of a sexual  
2 abuse offense under chapter 709, or a human trafficking offense  
3 under chapter 710A, allegedly committed by a licensee to each  
4 board who licenses the licensee if the law enforcement officer  
5 terminates the investigation without requesting that charges  
6 be filed, charges against the licensee are dropped, or the  
7 conviction of the licensee is overturned.

8 b. A board that receives investigative information submitted  
9 pursuant to paragraph "a" shall permanently revoke the license  
10 of a licensee if the board finds by a preponderance of the  
11 evidence that the sexual abuse offense under chapter 709 or human  
12 trafficking offense under chapter 710A occurred. The board may  
13 also utilize information submitted pursuant to paragraph "a" as  
14 the basis of other disciplinary action that the board may impose  
15 as provided by rule or law.

16 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **147.59 Disclosure of probationary**  
17 **status.**

18 A licensee who is practicing on a probationary basis shall  
19 provide a written disclosure regarding the basis for the  
20 licensee's probationary status to a person or the person's  
21 guardian or third-party representative, as applicable, prior to  
22 providing a service to the person.

23 Sec. 6. Section 148.3, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
24 following new subsection:

25 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. Prior to granting a license to an  
26 applicant for a license to practice medicine and surgery or  
27 osteopathic medicine and surgery who has practiced in another  
28 state, the board shall obtain disciplinary history from each  
29 state in which the applicant has practiced, which shall include  
30 information from cases that have not been fully adjudicated. The  
31 board shall review the data obtained pursuant to this subsection  
32 and determine whether the data requires the board to decline to  
33 issue a license or to conduct an additional investigation prior  
34 to issuing a license.

35 Sec. 7. Section 148.6, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended by

1 adding the following new paragraph:

2 NEW PARAGRAPH. i. For a licensee employed by a health  
3 insurer, denying a claim for any reason not supported by the  
4 sound medical judgment of the licensee.

5 Sec. 8. Section 272C.6, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 a. In order to assure a free flow of information for  
8 accomplishing the purposes of this section, and notwithstanding  
9 section 622.10, all complaint files, investigation files, other  
10 investigation reports, and other investigative information in  
11 the possession of a licensing board or peer review committee  
12 acting under the authority of a licensing board or its employees  
13 or agents which relates to licensee discipline are privileged  
14 and confidential until the conclusion of the investigation,  
15 and are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of  
16 legal compulsion for their release to a person other than the  
17 licensee and the boards, their employees and agents involved  
18 in licensee discipline, and are not admissible in evidence  
19 in a judicial or administrative proceeding other than the  
20 proceeding involving licensee discipline until the conclusion  
21 of the investigation. However, investigative information in  
22 the possession of a licensing board or its employees or  
23 agents which relates to licensee discipline may be disclosed  
24 to appropriate licensing authorities within this state, the  
25 appropriate licensing authority in another state, the coordinated  
26 licensure information system provided for in the nurse licensure  
27 compact contained in section 152E.1 or the advanced practice  
28 registered nurse compact contained in section 152E.3, the  
29 District of Columbia, or a territory or country in which the  
30 licensee is licensed or has applied for a license. If the  
31 investigative information in the possession of a licensing  
32 board or its employees or agents indicates a crime has been  
33 committed, the information shall be reported to the proper  
34 law enforcement agency. However, a final written decision  
35 and finding of fact of a licensing board in a disciplinary

1 proceeding, including a decision referred to in section 272C.3,  
2 subsection 4, is a public record. A licensing board shall not  
3 release personally identifiable information regarding a complaint  
4 without the express written permission of the complainant.

5 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **622.14 Licensed health professional —**  
6 **investigative information.**

7 Disciplinary records of a person licensed pursuant to chapter  
8 147 shall be admissible to the extent that they show a pattern of  
9 misconduct or a breach of professional duties.

10 EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill relates to the regulation of licensed health  
14 professionals. Prior to issuing a license to practice a health  
15 profession, the bill requires a health profession licensing board  
16 to consult the national practitioner data bank, the child abuse  
17 registry, and the sex offender registry for any information that  
18 would constitute grounds to decline to issue a license to an  
19 applicant. The bill also requires the department of inspections,  
20 appeals, and licensing to create an integrated database by July  
21 1, 2026, that contains all information found in the national  
22 practitioner data bank and all state disciplinary records and  
23 actions, which shall be available to the public at no cost.  
24 The bill requires the integrated database to include a clearly  
25 identifiable function that identifies whether each licensee has  
26 had a complaint filed against the licensee for sexual misconduct  
27 or sexual assault, as defined in the bill, substance use, medical  
28 malpractice, or substandard practice. Upon the creation of  
29 the integrated database, the bill requires a health profession  
30 licensing board to consult the database before issuing a license  
31 to an applicant.

32 If a health profession licensing board identifies a founded  
33 case of sexual misconduct against an applicant, the bill  
34 prohibits the board from issuing a license to the applicant  
35 unless 10 years have elapsed since the conduct giving rise to the

1 case, and the applicant has completed a problematic sexualized  
2 behavior treatment program. If a health profession licensing  
3 board identifies a founded case of sexual misconduct against a  
4 current licensee, the bill requires the board to suspend the  
5 license of the licensee until 10 years have elapsed since the  
6 conduct giving rise to the case, and the licensee has completed a  
7 problematic sexualized behavior treatment program.

8 The bill imposes on licensees a duty to report any other  
9 licensee that the licensee knows to have violated a law or rule  
10 regarding sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or substance use  
11 within five days of obtaining such knowledge to the relevant  
12 board. The bill requires each health profession licensing  
13 board to require each licensee to complete at least one hour  
14 of continuing education per licensure renewal cycle on the  
15 licensee's duty to report.

16 The bill requires a person who employs a licensed health  
17 professional to submit to the board who licenses the person  
18 information regarding all disciplinary actions taken against the  
19 licensee. Upon the receipt of a complaint against a licensee,  
20 the bill also requires a board to provide a copy of the complaint  
21 to the licensee's employer, all insurance carriers who have  
22 billed for the licensee's services in the past year, and the  
23 licensee's medical malpractice insurance company, if applicable,  
24 if the board receives the express written permission of the  
25 complainant.

26 The bill requires health profession licensing boards to take  
27 certain actions in response to the receipt of complaints on  
28 specified matters. For a complaint of sexual misconduct, a board  
29 shall require a licensee to practice under supervision until  
30 the conclusion of the board's investigation. For a complaint  
31 of sexual assault, the board shall suspend the license of the  
32 licensee until the conclusion of the board's investigation. The  
33 bill requires health profession licensing boards to prioritize  
34 investigations of complaints of sexual misconduct and sexual  
35 assault such that the average length of such investigations does

1 not exceed 30 days. If a licensee is criminally charged with  
2 sexual abuse or human trafficking, a health profession licensing  
3 board shall immediately suspend the license of the licensee, and  
4 a board shall permanently revoke the license of a licensee who  
5 is convicted of sexual abuse or human trafficking. The bill  
6 requires a law enforcement officer to provide all information  
7 gathered pursuant to an investigation of a claim of sexual  
8 abuse or human trafficking against a licensee to the relevant  
9 licensing board if the law enforcement officer terminates the  
10 investigation without requesting that charges be filed, charges  
11 are dropped, or a conviction is overturned. The board shall then  
12 permanently revoke the license of a licensee if the board finds  
13 by a preponderance of the evidence that the underlying conduct  
14 occurred.

15 The bill requires a licensed health professional who is  
16 practicing on a probationary basis to provide a written  
17 disclosure regarding the basis for the licensee's probationary  
18 status to a person or the person's guardian prior to providing  
19 services.

20 Prior to granting a license to an applicant for a license to  
21 practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery  
22 who has practiced in another state, the bill requires the board  
23 of medicine to obtain the complete disciplinary history of the  
24 applicant from each state in which the applicant has practiced  
25 and determine whether the history requires the board to decline  
26 to issue a license or complete an additional investigation before  
27 issuing a license. The bill allows the board of medicine to  
28 discipline a physician and surgeon or osteopathic physician and  
29 surgeon who is employed by a health insurer and denies a claim  
30 for any reason not supported by the sound medical judgment of the  
31 licensee.

32 The bill removes the privileged and confidential status of  
33 files relating to a licensing board investigation of a licensee  
34 once the licensing board completes its investigation. The  
35 bill prohibits a licensing board from releasing investigative

1 files containing personally identifiable information without the  
2 express written consent of the complainant.

3 The bill makes disciplinary records of a licensed health  
4 professional admissible in a civil action to the extent that they  
5 show a pattern of misconduct or a breach of professional duties.

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