#### SESSION 1993

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#### HOUSE BILL 347\*

Short Title: Bd. of Complementary Med. Examiners.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Cunningham, Colton, Easterling; Barnhill, Beall, Black, Brawley, Brubaker, Cole, Culp, Cummings, Decker, Fitch, Flaherty, Gist, Holt, Howard, H. Hunter, Ives, James, Jarrell, Justus, Kennedy, Lemmond, Luebke, McAllister, McLawhorn, Michaux, Mitchell, Oldham, J. Preston, Stamey, R. Thompson, Wainwright, and P. Wilson.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

February 25, 1993

1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT REGU	LATING THE PRACTICE OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE.
3	The General Ass	sembly of North Carolina enacts:
4	Sectio	on 1. Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
5	Article to read:	
6		'' <u>ARTICLE 29.</u>
7	''BOA	ARD OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS.
8	" <u>§ 90-430. Sl</u>	nort title. This Article shall be known as the North Carolina
9	Comp	plementary Medical Practice Act.
10	" <u>§ 90-431. Defi</u>	nitions.
11	<u>(1)</u>	'Board' means the Board of Complementary Medical Examiners.
12	<u>(2)</u>	'Chelation therapy' means medical therapy to restore cellular
13		homeostasis through the use of intravenous, metal-binding, and
14		bioinorganic agents such as ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid.
15	<u>(3)</u>	'Doctor of complementary medicine' means a physician licensed
16		pursuant to the provisions of Article I of this Chapter who has
17		completed and documented postgraduate education in one or more
18		therapies, including homeopathy, nutritional therapy, chelation
19		therapy, or any other complementary therapy as designated by the

1		Board in its rules, and who has met all such licensing requirements for
2		qualification under this statute.
3	<u>(4)</u>	'Homeopathy' means a system of medicine employing substances of
4		animal, vegetable, or mineral origin which are given in microdosages,
5		prepared according to homeopathic pharmacology, in accordance with
6		the principle that a substance which produces symptoms in a healthy
7		person can cure those symptoms in an ill person.
8	<u>(5)</u>	'Letter of concern' means an advisory letter to notify a physician that,
9		while there is sufficient evidence to support disciplinary action, the
10		Board believes the physician should modify or eliminate certain
11		practices.
12	<u>(6)</u>	'Nutrition therapy' means therapy to provide the optimum
13		concentration of substances normally present in the human body such
14	118 00 422 D.	as vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and enzymes.
15		rd of Complementary Medical Examiners.
16		e is established a Board of Complementary Medical Examiners which
17		f five members appointed by the Governor, four of whom shall be
18		physicians who are licensed under this Article, except as provided in
19 20		and one of whom shall be a public member. Except as provided for
20 21	three years, end	ing on June 20
21 22		terms of the initial board members shall be staggered such that one
22	• •	physicians' term and the public member's term expires June 30, 1994,
23 24		ntary physicians' terms expire June 30, 1995, and two complementary
2 <del>4</del> 25	-	is expire June 30, 1996. The initial complementary physician appointees
23 26		al doctors engaged in the practice of one or more complementary
20	therapies.	ar doctors engaged in the practice of one of more comprementary
28	<u> </u>	d members may be removed by the Governor for neglect of duty,
29	malfeasance, or	
30		tings; organization; compensation.
31		Board shall hold an annual meeting during the month of January of each
32	. ,	old other meetings at times and places determined by a majority of the
33	• •	days' written notice to each member. A majority vote of a quorum
34	-	meeting governs all actions taken, except that licenses shall be issued
35	· ·	ter only upon the vote of a majority of the full Board.
36	<u>(b)</u> <u>At ea</u>	ch annual meeting the Board shall select from among its membership a
37	president and vi	ice-president who shall serve until their successors are chosen.
38	(c) Each	Board member is eligible to receive compensation pursuant to G.S.
39	93B-5 for each	day actually engaged in carrying out duties as an officer or member of
40		npensation and expenses shall be paid from the Board of Complementary
41	Medical Exami	
42		vers and duties.
43	<u>(a)</u> <u>The I</u>	<u>Board shall:</u>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
aminations for applicants for a license under this
licenses, conduct hearings, place complementary
robation, revoke or suspend licenses, and administer
Article.
he complementary medical profession in this State the
actice prescribed by this Article and the rules and
ted by the Board pursuant to the authority granted by
ount for all fees under this Article and deposit same in
ned by the Board; funds may be expended from
ted by fees and interest thereon for the administration
•
ord of its acts and proceedings, including, but not
issuance, refusal to issue, renewal, suspension, or
enses to practice according to this Article.
r of all complementary physicians licensed under this
all indicate:
of the licensed physician.
nt professional office address.
and the number of the license issued under this
he licensee is in good standing.
a seal, the imprint of which, together with the
e president or vice-president of the Board and the
er, shall evidence its official acts.
inistrative and record keeping services.
al fees that do not exceed the cost of the services for
Board deems necessary to carry out its intent and
rules and regulations necessary for the administration
ional institutions in this State which mont desman
ional institutions in this State which grant degrees
therapies which are regulated under this Article.
or temporary personnel to carry out the purposes of
t with investigators to assist in the investigation of
is Article and contract with other State agencies if
out this Article.
lease, sell, or otherwise transfer office space,
plies, or other real or personal property for the
f this Article.
affected by this Article.

1	(a) This	Article	e exists for the exclusive purpose of licensing and regulation of	
2	medical doctor	s who	practice complementary therapies. It shall not be construed to	
3	govern any method, system, or science of healing by nonmedical doctors.			
4	<u>(b)</u> <u>This</u>	Articl	e does not govern the practice of complementary physicians	
5	discharging the	ir dutie	s while members of the armed forces of the United States or other	
6	federal agencie	<u>s.</u>		
7	" <u>§ 90-436. Qu</u>	alificat	tions of applicant; application; fees.	
8	<u>(a)</u> <u>A lic</u>	ense to	practice medicine as a complementary physician shall be granted	
9	only to an appli	icant w	<u>ho:</u>	
10	(1)	<u>Is of</u>	good moral character and is licensed pursuant to Article I of this	
11		<u>Chap</u>		
12	(2)	Has	a professional record which indicates that the applicant has not	
13			a license to practice medicine refused, revoked, suspended, or	
14		restri	cted in any state, territory, district, or county for reasons which	
15		relate	e to his ability to competently and safely practice medicine;	
16	<u>(3)</u>	Has	a professional record which indicates that the applicant has not	
17			nitted any act or engaged in any conduct which would constitute	
18		•	nds for disciplinary action against a licensee under this Article;	
19	<u>(4)</u>		the physical and mental capacity to safely engage in the practice	
20			edicine; and	
21	<u>(5)</u>		nits to the Board, at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the	
22		<u>appli</u>	cation is to be considered:	
23		<u>a.</u>	Affidavits from three physicians licensed to practice medicine	
24			in any state of the United States or the District of Columbia	
25			who are in active practice, attesting to the good moral character	
26			of the applicant and fitness to practice medicine as a doctor of	
27			complementary medicine. The applicant shall submit to any	
28			other reasonable investigation deemed necessary by the Board;	
29		<u>b.</u>	A diploma or certificate evidencing the completion of	
30			postgraduate training in the complementary modality in which	
31			the applicant intends to engage. Such training must be	
32			approved by the Board and documentation shall evidence	
33			requirements equivalent to those established for eligibility for	
34			certification by the national accreditation board for the	
35			particular therapy; or equivalent to the appropriate number of	
36			hours and subjects which are generally accepted as necessary,	
37			as determined by the Board, for a thorough knowledge of the	
38			practice of each modality;	
39		<u>c.</u>	A verified application, upon forms furnished by the Board,	
40			stating, in addition to any other information requested, that the	
41			applicant is the person named in the diploma or certificate and	
42			the lawful holder of such diploma or certificate and that the	
43			diploma was procured in a regular course of instruction and	
44			examination without fraud or misrepresentation;	

	1993	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1	(6)	Successfully passes an examination as provided in this Article, except
2		that the Board may waive any such examination if the applicant either:
3		<u>a.</u> <u>Has for three years practiced primarily the complementary</u>
4		therapy for which the applicant is seeking to be licensed as a
5		doctor of complementary medicine, has affidavits from three
6		physicians which attest to competency for this therapy, and is
7		licensed pursuant to Article I of this Chapter; or
8		b. Holds a current, unsuspended, and unrevoked license to practice
9		this complementary therapy issued by another state of the
10		United States or the District of Columbia and is licensed
11		pursuant to Article I of this Chapter;
12	<u>(7)</u>	Pays to the Board upon application a fee of two hundred fifty dollars
13 14		(\$250.00), and an additional fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)
14 15	(8)	<u>upon issuance of the license; and</u> <u>Submits to a personal interview at a reasonable time and place as</u>
15 16	<u>(6)</u>	prescribed by the Board.
17	"8 90-437. Exa	mination; reexamination.
18		nination for a license to practice under this Article shall include all
19		are generally accepted as necessary for a thorough knowledge of the
20		selected areas of complementary therapies. The Board shall prescribe
21		ations for conducting the examinations and set the passing grade.
22	<u>(b)</u> Exam	ninations shall be conducted at least twice annually at times and places to
23		by the Board. Written notice of the date and place of examination shall
24		Il applicants at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination. A
25		to pass an examination may be reexamined within one year without
26	payment of an a	
27 28		newal of license; failure to renew; reinstatement. physician holding a license under this Article shall renew it and pay a
28 29		t to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) prior to January 1 each year.
30		w an active license as required by this section on or before February 1
31		itional late payment fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00). Failure
32	<u> </u>	ive license on or before May 1 shall result in the expiration of the active
33		ecretary-treasurer of the Board shall notify each licensee of the renewal
34		days prior to January 1 each year.
35		rson whose license has expired may reapply for a license to practice
36	<u>complementary</u>	medicine as provided in this Article.
37		of title or abbreviation by a complementary physician.
38		practicing pursuant to this Article may only use the title 'complementary
39		ician' or 'doctor of complementary medicine', or the abbreviations
40	<u>'M.D.C.M.D.'.</u>	
41		nition of unprofessional conduct.
42 42	-	onal conduct' includes the following acts, whether occurring in the State
43 44	or elsewhere:	Immoral or dishonorable conduct;
44	<u>(1)</u>	minutal of distionorable conduct,

1	( <b>2</b> )	Due de sin a su attauxations ta una de sa an al antian a antenars ta larra
1	$\frac{(2)}{(2)}$	Producing or attempting to produce an abortion contrary to law;
2	<u>(3)</u>	Making false statements or representations to the Board, or willfully
3		concealing from the Board material information in connection with his
4		application for a license;
5	<u>(4)</u>	Being unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to
6		patients by reason of illness, drunkenness, excessive use of alcohol,
7		drugs, chemicals, or any other type of material or by reason of any
8		physical or mental abnormality. The Board is empowered and
9		authorized to require a physician licensed by it to submit to a mental or
10		physical examination by physicians designated by the Board before or
11		after charges may be presented against him, and the results of
12		examination shall be admissible in evidence in a hearing before the
13		Board;
14	<u>(5)</u>	Unprofessional conduct including, but not limited to, the committing
15		of any act contrary to honesty, justice, or good morals, whether the
16		same is committed in the course of his practice or otherwise, and
17		whether committed within or without North Carolina;
18	<u>(6)</u>	Conviction in any court of a crime involving moral turpitude, or the
19		violation of a law involving the practice of medicine, or a conviction
20		of a felony;
21	(7)	By false representations obtaining or attempting to obtain practice,
22	~ ,-	money, or anything of value;
23	<u>(8)</u>	Advertising or publicly professing to treat human ailments under a
24		system or school of treatment or practice other than that for which he
25		has been educated;
26	<u>(9)</u>	Adjudication of mental incompetency, which shall automatically
27		suspend a license unless the Board orders otherwise;
28	<u>(10)</u>	Lack of professional competence to practice medicine with a
29		reasonable degree of skill and safety for patients. In this connection
30		the Board may consider repeated acts of a physician indicating his
31		failure to properly treat a patient and may require such physician to
32		submit to inquiries or examinations, written or oral, by members of the
33		Board or by other physicians licensed to practice medicine in this
34		State, as the Board deems necessary to determine the professional
35		qualifications of such licensee;
36	(11)	Promotion of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances, or goods for a
37	~ /	patient, or providing services to a patient, in such a manner as to
38		exploit the patient for financial gain of the physician; and upon a
39		finding of the exploitation for financial gain, the Board may order
40		restitution be made to the payer of the bill, whether the patient or the
41		insurer, by the physician; provided that a determination of the amount
42		of restitution shall be based on credible testimony in the record;
43	(12)	Suspension or revocation of a license to practice medicine in any other
44	-, <i>/</i> -	state, or territory of the United States, or other country;

	1993	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1	(13)	The failure to respond, within a reasonable period of time and in a
2	<u> </u>	reasonable manner as determined by the Board, to inquiries from the
3		Board concerning any matter affecting the license to practice
4		medicine;
5	<u>(14)</u>	The use of experimental forms of diagnosis and treatment without
6		adequate informed patient consent, without a board-approved written
7		disclosure that the form of diagnosis and treatment to be used is
8		experimental, and without conforming to generally accepted
9		experimental criteria, including protocols, detailed records, periodic
10		analysis of results, and periodic review by a peer review committee;
11	<u>(15)</u>	Sexual intimacies with a patient in the course of direct treatment;
12	<u>(16)</u>	Refusal, revocation, or suspension of a license by any other state,
13		territory, district, or country, unless it can be shown that such was not
14		occasioned by reasons which relate to the ability to practice
15		complementary medicine safely and skillfully or to any act of
16		unprofessional conduct as provided in this section.
17		rounds for suspension or revocation of license; duty to report;
18 19		ofessional conduct hearing; decision of Board.
19 20		<u>Board on its own motion may investigate any information which appears</u> complementary physician is or may be guilty of unprofessional conduct
20 21		be mentally or physically unable to engage safely in the practice of
22	•	complementary physician, the North Carolina Complementary Medical
23	•	any health care institution shall, and any other person may, report to the
24		formation such person may have which appears to show that a
25	•	physician is or may be guilty of unprofessional conduct or is or may be
26		viscally unable to engage safely in the practice of medicine. The Board
27	shall notify the	complementary physician about whom information is received as to the
28	content of the	information within 120 days after the receipt of the information. Any
29	person who rep	orts or provides information to the Board in good faith is not subject to
30		ivil damages as a result thereof, and such person's name shall not be
31		s such person's testimony is essential to the disciplinary proceedings
32		uant to the section. It is an act of unprofessional conduct for any
33	1 · ·	physician to fail to report as required by this section. Any health care
34		h fails to report as required by this section shall be reported by the Board
35		on's licensing agency.
36	. ,	alth care institution shall inform the Board when the privileges of a
37	· · · ·	physician to practice in the health care institution are denied, revoked,
38	-	limited because of actions by the complementary physician which
39 40	• • •	ient health and welfare or if the physician resigns during pending
40 41	· ·	revocation, suspension, or limitation of his privileges. A report to the to this subsection shall contain a general statement of the reasons the
41	-	istitution denied or took action to revoke, suspend, or limit a
43		physician's privileges.
15	<u>comprendental y</u>	physician's privileges.

1		ter completing its investigation, the Board finds that the information		
2	provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is not of sufficient seriousness to			
3		on against the license of the complementary physician it may take either		
4	of the following			
5	<u>(1)</u>	Dismiss if, in the opinion of the Board, the information is without		
6		<u>merit.</u>		
7	<u>(2)</u>	File a letter of concern.		
8		the opinion of the Board, and after completing the investigation, it		
9	~ ~	ormation is or may be true, the Board may request an informal interview		
10	-	ementary physician concerned. If the complementary physician refuses		
11		if he accepts the invitation and if the results of the interview indicate		
12	-	evocation of his license might be in order, a formal complaint shall be		
13		rmal hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of		
14	-	of the General Statutes. If, after completing the investigation, at the		
15		ew, the Board finds the information provided under subsection (a) of		
16		ot of sufficient seriousness to merit suspension or revocation of license,		
17	•	<u>`ollowing actions:</u>		
18	<u>(1)</u>	Dismiss if, in the opinion of the Board, the information is without		
19		merit.		
20	$\frac{(2)}{(2)}$	<u>File a letter of concern.</u>		
21	<u>(3)</u>	Issue a decree of censure which constitutes an official action against		
22		the complementary physician's license and which may include but not		
23		be limited to a requirement for restitution of fees to a patient resulting		
24	(A)	from violations of this Article or rules promulgated under this Article.		
25	<u>(4)</u>	Fix such period and terms of probation best adapted to protect the		
26 27		public health and safety and rehabilitate or educate the complementary		
27		physician concerned. The probation, if deemed necessary, may include but not be limited to temporary suspension of the license not to		
28 29		exceed 12 months, restriction of the complementary physician's license		
30		to practice medicine, or a requirement for restitution of fees to a		
31		patient resulting from violations of this Article or rules promulgated		
32		under this Article. The failure to comply with any probation is cause		
33		for filing a summons, complaint, and notice of hearing pursuant to this		
34		section based on the information considered by the Board at the		
35		informal interview and any other acts or conduct alleged to be in		
36		violation of this Article or rules adopted by the Board pursuant to this		
37		Article.		
38	<u>(5)</u>	Enter into an agreement with the complementary physician to restrict		
39	<del>\/</del>	or limit the complementary physician's practice or medical activities in		
40		order to rehabilitate the complementary physician, protect the public,		
41		and insure the complementary physician's ability to safely engage in		
42		the practice of medicine.		
43	<u>(e)</u> <u>In an</u>	informal interview pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or in a		
44	. ,	t to subsection (f) of this section, the Board, in addition to any other		

1993

action which may be taken, may impose a civil penalty in an amount of not less than 1 2 five hundred dollars (\$500.00) but not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) on a 3 complementary physician who violates any provision of this Article or any rule promulgated pursuant to this Article. Actions to enforce the collection of these 4 5 penalties shall be brought in the name of this State by the Attorney General or the 6 county attorney in the county in which the violation occurred. Penalties imposed under 7 this section are in addition to and not in limitation of other penalties imposed pursuant 8 to this Article. 9 (f) If in the opinion of the Board it appears that the allegations concerning a 10 complementary physician are of such magnitude as to warrant suspension or revocation of his license, the Board shall serve on such physician a summons and a complaint fully 11 12 setting forth the conduct or inability concerned; hearings shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. 13 14 (g) Patient records, including clinical records, medical reports, laboratory 15 statements and reports, any file, film, any other report or oral statement relating to 16 diagnostic findings or treatment of patients, any information from which a patient or his 17 family might be identified, or information received and records kept by the Board as a 18 result of investigation procedures shall not be available to the public. Hospital records, medical staff records, medical staff review committee 19 (h) 20 records, and testimony concerning such records, and proceedings related to the creation 21 of such records, are not available to the public, shall be kept confidential by the Board, and are subject to the same provisions concerning discovery and use in legal action as 22 23 are the original records in the possession and control of hospitals, their medical staffs, 24 and their medical staff review committees. The Board shall use such records and testimony during the course of investigations and proceedings pursuant to this Article. 25 "§ 90-442. Violation; classification. 26 27 A person who practices or attempts to practice medicine as a complementary physician in violation of this Article, or who violates any of the provisions of this 28 29 Article, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred 30 dollars (\$500.00) per offense. "§ 90-443. Third-party reimbursement. 31 32 Nothing in this Article shall be construed to require direct third-party reimbursement to persons licensed under this Article for the provision of complementary medical 33 services." 34 35 Sec. 2. G.S. 90-14(a) reads as rewritten: The Board shall have the power to deny, annul, suspend, or revoke a license, 36 "(a) or other authority to practice medicine in this State, issued by the Board to any person 37 38 who has been found by the Board to have committed any of the following acts or 39 conduct, or for any of the following reasons: Immoral or dishonorable conduct; 40 (1)(2)Producing or attempting to produce an abortion contrary to law; 41 42 (3) Made false statements or representations to the Board, or who has 43 willfully concealed from the Board material information in connection 44 with his application for a license;

1	(4)	Repealed by Session Laws 1977, c. 838, s. 3.
2	(5)	Being unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to
3		patients by reason of illness, drunkenness, excessive use of alcohol,
4		drugs, chemicals, or any other type of material or by reason of any
5		physical or mental abnormality. The Board is empowered and
6		authorized to require a physician licensed by it to submit to a mental or
7		physical examination by physicians designated by the Board before or
8		after charges may be presented against him, and the results of
9		examination shall be admissible in evidence in a hearing before the
10		Board;
11	(6)	Unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, any departure
12	(-)	from, or the failure to conform to, the standards of acceptable and
13		prevailing-medical practice, or the ethics of the medical profession,
14		irrespective of whether or not a patient is injured thereby, or the
15		committing of any act contrary to honesty, justice, or good morals,
16		whether the same is committed in the course of his practice or
17		otherwise, and whether committed within or without North Carolina;
18		Carolina. Medical doctors practicing complementary therapies who
19		are not licensed pursuant to Article 29 of this Chapter are subject to
20		fines and penalties as set forth in that Article. The Board is not
21		authorized to revoke, suspend, or deny a license, nor deem as
22		unacceptable the therapies of complementary physicians licensed
23		pursuant to Article 29 of this Chapter, solely on the basis of their use
24		of complementary therapies; provided, however, the Board may take
25		disciplinary action against a physician licensed under Article 29 upon
26		proof that the therapy creates an unreasonable risk of harm that
27		exceeds the degree of risk inherent in the practice of traditional
28		therapies;
29	(7)	Conviction in any court of a crime involving moral turpitude, or the
30	$(\prime)$	violation of a law involving the practice of medicine, or a conviction
31		of a felony; provided that a felony conviction shall be treated as
32		provided in subsection (c) of this section;
33	(8)	By false representations has obtained or attempted to obtain practice,
34	(0)	money or anything of value;
35	(9)	Has advertised or publicly professed to treat human ailments under a
36	())	system or school of treatment or practice other than that for which he
37		has been educated;
38	(10)	Adjudication of mental incompetency, which shall automatically
39	(10)	suspend a license unless the Board orders otherwise;
40	(11)	Lack of professional competence to practice medicine with a
41	()	reasonable degree of skill and safety for patients. In this connection the
42		Board may consider repeated acts of a physician indicating his failure
43		to properly treat a patient and may require such physician to submit to
44		inquiries or examinations, written or oral, by members of the Board or

	1993	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1 2		by other physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State, as the Board deems necessary to determine the professional qualifications of
3		such licensee;
4	(12)	Promotion of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances or goods for a
5		patient, or providing services to a patient, in such a manner as to
6		exploit the patient for financial gain of the physician; and upon a
7		finding of the exploitation for financial gain, the Board may order
8		restitution be made to the payer of the bill, whether the patient or the
9		insurer, by the physician; provided that a determination of the amount
10		of restitution shall be based on credible testimony in the record;
11	(13)	Suspension or revocation of a license to practice medicine in any other
12		state, or territory of the United States, or other country;
13	(14)	The failure to respond, within a reasonable period of time and in a
14		reasonable manner as determined by the Board, to inquiries from the
15		Board concerning any matter affecting the license to practice
16		medicine.
17	•	ne foregoing reasons, the Board may deny the issuance of a license to an
18	* *	oke a license issued to him, may suspend such a license for a period of
19	, <b>,</b>	impose conditions upon the continued practice after such period of
20	*	e Board may deem advisable, may limit the accused physician's practice
21		th respect to the extent, nature or location of his practice as the Board
22 23		e. The Board may, in its discretion and upon such terms and conditions beriod of time as it may prescribe, restore a license so revoked or
23 24	rescinded."	benou of time as it may presence, restore a neerse so revoked of
24 25		3. This act is effective upon ratification.
23	560.	