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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 402**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING TRUTH IN ADVERTISING BY MEDICAL DOCTORS AND DOCTORS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows physicians to advertise or otherwise convey to the public that they are board certified only if certain conditions are met.

The advertisement must state the full name of the certifying board. In addition, the certifying board must be:

1. a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or
2. another board that requires (a) successful completion of a postgraduate training program meeting certain criteria and (b) passage of an examination.

Violating the bill subjects a physician to disciplinary action by the Department of Public Health. By law, disciplinary actions available to the department include, among other things, (1) revoking or suspending a license, (2) issuing a letter of reprimand, (3) placing the violator on probation, or (4) imposing a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 (CGS § 19a-17).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

#### **BOARD REQUIREMENTS**

Under the bill, for boards that are not ABMS or AOA members, physicians may only advertise or hold themselves out as board-certified if the other board requires specified criteria for certification. The board must require applicants to have completed a postgraduate training program that:

1. is approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical

Education or AOA,

2. provides training in the applicable specialty or subspecialty,  
and
3. is certified by an ABMS or AOA member board.

The board must also require applicants to have passed an examination in the applicable specialty or subspecialty.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/23/2018)