



## 2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 546

October 14, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives FELZKOWSKI, DITTRICH, HORLACHER, KITCHENS, MURPHY, MURSAU, QUINN, RAMTHUN, SCHRAA, SKOWRONSKI, TUSLER and ZIMMERMAN, cosponsored by Senators TIFFANY and KOOYENGA. Referred to Committee on Health.

1     **AN ACT** *to create* chapter 461 of the statutes; **relating to:** providing  
2           complementary and alternative health care practitioners with exemptions  
3           from practice protection laws, requirements and prohibitions for individuals  
4           who provide complementary and alternative health care services, and  
5           providing a penalty.

---

### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill does the following: 1) establishes certain requirements and prohibitions for complementary and alternative health care (CAHC) practitioners; 2) provides exemptions for CAHC practitioners from prohibitions against acting without certain health-care related licenses, certifications, and other credentials if they comply with provisions in the bill; and 3) provides the Department of Safety and Professional Services with authority to investigate and take action against a CAHC practitioner for violating a provision in the bill.

Under current law, DSPS, in conjunction with a number of credentialing boards attached to DSPS, regulates and provides for the credentialing of various types of health-care professions. Current law contains numerous prohibitions against engaging in certain health-care related practices and against using titles associated with certain health-care related professions without a required credential.

The bill establishes certain requirements pertaining to CAHC practitioners, which are not specifically regulated or required to hold a specific credential under current law. The bill requires a CAHC practitioner to provide to each client, before



**ASSEMBLY BILL 546**

## COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE

## HEALTH CARE PRACTICES

**461.01 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) “Client” means an individual who receives or seeks to receive services from a complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

(2) “Complementary and alternative health care practitioner” means an individual, other than a health care professional acting within the scope of his or her practice, who provides or offers to provide complementary and alternative health care services to a client in exchange for compensation or holds himself or herself out to the public as a provider of complementary and alternative health care services.

(3) “Complementary and alternative health care service” means a health care practice or method of healing therapy or modality other than one that a complementary and alternative health care practitioner is prohibited from providing under s. 461.03 (1).

(4) “Controlled substance” has the meaning given in s. 961.01 (4).

(5) “Credential” has the meaning given in s. 440.01 (2) (a).

(6) “Dangerous drug” means any of the following:

(a) A prescription drug, as defined in s. 450.01 (20).

(b) A drug that is required by federal law to be labeled as a drug that may only be prescribed to an animal.

(7) “Health care professional” has the meaning given for “health care provider” in s. 146.81 (1) (a) to (hp) and also includes a licensed midwife, as defined in s. 440.9805 (2).

**461.02 Exemptions from requirements to hold credentials.**

Notwithstanding ss. 256.15 (2), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03

**ASSEMBLY BILL 546****SECTION 1**

1 (1) and (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), and (c) and (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.76, 448.961  
2 (1) and (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04 (1), 455.02 (1m), 457.04 (4), (5),  
3 (6), and (7), 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), and 460.02, a complementary and alternative  
4 health care practitioner does not violate any of the prohibitions against engaging in  
5 a practice without a credential under s. 256.15 (2), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2),  
6 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1) or (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), or (c) or (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.76,  
7 448.961 (1) or (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04 (1), 455.02 (1m), 457.04  
8 (4), (5), (6), or (7), 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), or 460.02 and may provide complementary  
9 and alternative health care services unless the complementary and alternative  
10 health care practitioner violates s. 461.03 or 461.04.

11 **461.03 Prohibitions. (1)** A complementary and alternative health care  
12 practitioner may not do any of the following:

13 (a) Perform surgery.

14 (b) Set fractures.

15 (c) Puncture the skin, except by pricking a finger for purposes of blood  
16 screening.

17 (d) Prescribe or administer X-ray services.

18 (e) Prescribe or administer a dangerous drug, controlled substance, or device,  
19 as defined in s. 450.01 (6), that may be prescribed or administered only by a health  
20 care professional.

21 (f) Perform a chiropractic adjustment or manipulation of joints or a spine.

22 (g) Hold out, state, or imply to a person that he or she is a health care  
23 professional.

24 (h) Recommend to a client that he or she discontinue current medical treatment  
25 that is prescribed by a health care professional.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 546****SECTION 1**

1 (i) Make a diagnosis of a medical disease.

2 **(2)** A complementary and alternative health care practitioner may not do any  
3 of the following:

4 (a) Engage in any of the following:

5 1. Sexual contact, as defined in s. 939.22 (34), with a client.

6 2. Contact with a client that may be reasonably interpreted by the client as  
7 sexual.

8 3. Verbal behavior that is seductive or sexually demeaning to a client.

9 4. Sexual exploitation of a client or former client.

10 (b) Falsely advertise or provide false information about the complementary and  
11 alternative health care practitioner's degree, training, experience, or other  
12 qualification or about a complementary and alternative health care service.

13 (c) Violate a law relating to a dangerous drug or a controlled substance.

14 (d) Release a client's records or information about the client's transactions  
15 unless the release is authorized by the client in writing or otherwise provided by law.

16 (e) Give or receive, directly or indirectly, to or from any other person any fee,  
17 commission, rebate, or other form of compensation or anything of value for sending,  
18 referring, or otherwise inducing a person to communicate with a complementary and  
19 alternative health care practitioner in a professional capacity, or for any  
20 complementary and alternative health care service not actually rendered personally  
21 by the complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

22 **(3)** No person may act as a complementary and alternative health care  
23 practitioner if any of the following applies:

24 (a) The person is or was a health care professional and had his or her credential  
25 revoked or suspended, unless the credential was subsequently reinstated.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 546****SECTION 1**

1 (b) The person was convicted of a felony against a person and has not completed  
2 his or her sentence, including any probation, parole, or extended supervision.

3 (c) The person was convicted of a felony, the circumstances of which relate to  
4 providing health care.

5 (d) The person is an individual found incompetent, as defined in s. 54.01 (16).

6 **461.04 Required disclosures. (1)** A complementary and alternative health  
7 care practitioner shall provide to a client all of the following:

8 (a) Reasonable notice of a change to complementary and alternative health care  
9 services provided.

10 (b) Reasonable notice of a change to a charge for a complementary and  
11 alternative health care service.

12 (c) Complete and current information concerning the complementary and  
13 alternative health care practitioner's assessment of the client and the recommended  
14 complementary and alternative health care service that is to be provided, including  
15 the expected duration of the service and access to the client's records and written  
16 information contained in the client's records.

17 **(2)** A complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall, before  
18 providing a complementary and alternative health care service, disclose to a client  
19 in a plainly worded written statement all of the following:

20 (a) The name, business address, and telephone number of the complementary  
21 and alternative health care practitioner.

22 (b) The fact that the complementary and alternative health care practitioner  
23 is not practicing under a health care license, certification, or registration granted by  
24 this state.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 546****SECTION 1**

1 (c) The nature of the complementary and alternative health care service to be  
2 provided.

3 (d) A list of any degree, training, experience, or other qualification the  
4 complementary and alternative health care practitioner has or holds regarding the  
5 complementary and alternative health care service to be provided.

6 (e) The complementary and alternative health care practitioner's fees per unit  
7 of service and the method of billing for such fees.

8 (f) A statement that the client has a right to reasonable notice of a change to  
9 complementary and alternative health care services provided or to a charge for a  
10 complementary and alternative health care service.

11 (g) A statement that the client has the right to complete and current  
12 information concerning the complementary and alternative health care  
13 practitioner's assessment and recommended complementary and alternative health  
14 care service that is to be provided, including the expected duration of the service to  
15 be provided and the client's right to be allowed access to the client's records and  
16 written information in the client's records.

17 (h) A statement that the complementary and alternative health care  
18 practitioner may not release a client's records or information about the client's  
19 transactions unless the release is authorized by the client in writing or otherwise  
20 provided by law.

21 (i) A statement that the client has a right to coordinated transfer if there is a  
22 change in the provider of complementary and alternative health care services.

23 (j) The name, address, and telephone number of the department and a  
24 statement that the client may file a complaint with the department regarding  
25 conduct that violates this chapter.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 546****SECTION 1**

1           **(3)** A complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall display a  
2 written notice containing all of the information that is required under sub. (2) in a  
3 prominent location where complementary and alternative health care services are  
4 provided. The notice shall be written in not less than 12-point font size, and the  
5 complementary and alternative health care provider shall make a reasonable  
6 accommodation to disclose the information in the notice to a client who cannot read,  
7 who has a communication impairment, or who does not read or speak English or the  
8 same language as the complementary and alternative health care practitioner.

9           **(4)** (a) A client shall sign a written acknowledgment stating that the client has  
10 been provided with the information described under subs. (1) and (2) before a  
11 complementary and alternative health care practitioner may provide a  
12 complementary and alternative health care service to the client for the first time.

13           (b) If the information that is described under sub. (1) changes after a client  
14 signs the written acknowledgment under par. (a), the client shall sign another  
15 written acknowledgement stating that the client has been provided with the  
16 up-to-date information described under subs. (1) and (2) before a complementary  
17 and alternative health care practitioner may provide a complementary and  
18 alternative health care service to the client for the first time after the information  
19 changes.

20           (c) The complementary and alternative health care practitioner shall provide  
21 a client with a copy of a signed acknowledgement under par. (a) or (b) and shall  
22 maintain each signed acknowledgement for at least 2 years.

23           **(5)** If a complementary and alternative health care practitioner does not  
24 possess a credential, the complementary and alternative health care practitioner  
25 shall in each advertisement made for a complementary and alternative health care



**ASSEMBLY BILL 546****SECTION 1**

1 service disclose that he or she has not been granted a license to practice a licensed  
2 health profession in this state.

3 (6) Subsections (2) to (5) do not apply to an employee of a licensed health care  
4 facility or an employee of or a person acting pursuant to the direction of a licensed  
5 health professional practicing within the scope of his or her practice.

6 **461.05 Applicability.** (1) Nothing in this chapter applies to, controls, or  
7 prevents any acts or persons that would otherwise already be exempt from  
8 professional practice acts.

9 (2) Nothing in this chapter limits the right of a person to seek relief for  
10 negligent or willful harm, or any other relief, against a complementary and  
11 alternative health care practitioner.

12 **461.06 Enforcement.** (1) If it appears upon the complaint of any person to  
13 the department that a complementary and alternative health care practitioner is  
14 violating this chapter, the department may investigate the alleged violation.

15 (2) If the department determines that a complementary and alternative health  
16 care practitioner has violated this chapter, the department may do any of the  
17 following:

18 (a) Provide a written notice to the complementary and alternative health care  
19 practitioner that requests that the complementary and alternative health care  
20 practitioner correct the activity that violates this chapter.

21 (b) For a violation of this chapter other than a violation of s. 461.04, issue a  
22 cease and desist order that prohibits the complementary and alternative health care  
23 practitioner from engaging in conduct that violates chs. 440 to 480.

