SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5492

As of February 12, 2013

Title: An act relating to requiring transparency for patients regarding training and qualifications of health care professionals.

Brief Description: Requiring transparency for patients regarding training and qualifications of health care professionals.

Sponsors: Senators Becker, Schlicher, Darneille and Parlette.

Brief History:
  Committee Activity: Health Care: 2/14/13.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

  Staff: Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

  Background: The term doctor has traditionally been interpreted to mean a medical physician. Additional professionals use the title of doctor to reflect their Ph.D. or other advanced degree. Several health professions now have Ph.D. training available.

  Summary of Bill: All health care professionals must include detailed information in advertisements, or any communication that names the health care professional in relation to the practice or profession, including letterhead, brochures, email, internet, business cards, billboards, audio or video presentations, or any other communications used for business. The information must include the full title indicating the type of license, registration, or certificate held by the professional, or may use a suffix after the name of the professional as approved in statute for the type of license, registration, or certification. All advertisements must be free from any and all deceptive or misleading information. Health care professionals are responsible for ensuring that references to themselves are consistent with their training and qualifications.

  Appropriation: None.

  Fiscal Note: Available.

  Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2014.