**HF 643 / SF 482**

**Minnesota Board of Medical Practice Housekeeping Bill**

**Key Messages**

Title Protection

The Board of Medical Practice is charged with protecting the public's health and safety by assuring that the people who practice medicine are competent, ethical practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills appropriate to their title and role. This bill modifies the Medical Practice Act, chapter 147, to assure that the Board has the necessary authority to carry out its mandate of public protection and to clearly communicate misconduct that is the subject of disciplinary actions. This bill:

* SF 482/HF 643 creates a new section, Title Protection, and moves protected titles currently defined in section 147.081, Subd. 3(6), to a new section, 147.082 TITLE PROTECTION.
* The protected titles are intended to be used exclusively by physicians licensed under chapter 147 to represent the credential and authorized scope of professional practice of a medical doctor.
* The Board of Medical Practice recognizes a loophole in current statute that may allow a non-physician to claim an exemption to use one or more of the titles authorized and intended for use by physicians.
* The Board of Medical Practice, in consultation with the Attorney General’s Office, seeks to close this loophole to assure that patients seeking medical care from a physician cannot be confused or misled by a non-physician’s use of a protected title.
* It is necessary for the Board of Medical Practice to strengthen its ability to protect patients by enforcing protection of titles and acting against those who mislead or defraud the public.
* It is the intent of the Board of Medical Practice in pursuing SF 482/HF 643 to assure its authority to protect the specific titles defined in chapter 147 for use by individuals licensed to practice medicine under this chapter. It is not the intent of the Board of Medical Practice to preclude other health professionals from using title designations as defined in their respective practice acts, or other designations that are not specifically protected by chapter 147, including but not limited to podiatric physician, doctor of chiropractic and doctor of dental surgery.
* The Board is not aware of opposition to the bill.

Grounds for Discipline

Section 147.091, Subd. 1(a) through (z), outline the violations of the Medical Practice Act that provide grounds for disciplinary action.

* The board is required to publish and release to the public a description of all disciplinary measures taken by the board, including the nature of the misconduct and the disciplinary measure taken by the board.
* It is the intent of the Board of Medical Practice through these modifications to more clearly and accurately communicate the nature of misconduct underlying a disciplinary measure taken by the board.