A BILL

To amend sections 4734.04, 4734.05, 4734.15, 4734.25, 4734.283, 4734.285, and 4734.31 and to enact sections 3702.98, 3702.981, 3702.982, 3702.983, 3702.984, 3702.985, 3702.986, 3702.987, 3702.988, 3702.989, 3702.9810, and 4734.151 of the Revised Code to create the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program and to revise certain laws administered by the State Chiropractic Board.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4734.04, 4734.05, 4734.15, 4734.25, 4734.283, 4734.285, and 4734.31 be amended and sections 3702.98, 3702.981, 3702.982, 3702.983, 3702.984, 3702.985, 3702.986, 3702.987, 3702.988, 3702.989, 3702.9810, and 4734.151 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3702.98. There is hereby created the chiropractic
loan repayment program, which shall be administered by the
department of health in cooperation with the chiropractic loan
repayment advisory board. The program shall provide loan
repayment on behalf of individuals who agree to provide
chiropractic services in areas designated as chiropractic health
resource shortage areas by the director of health pursuant to
section 3702.982 of the Revised Code.

Under the program, the department of health, by means of a
contract entered into under section 3702.986 of the Revised
Code, may agree to repay all or part of the principal and
interest of a government or other educational loan taken by an
individual for the following expenses incurred while the
individual was enrolled in an accredited chiropractic school or
college:

(A) Tuition;

(B) Other educational expenses, such as fees, books, and
laboratory expenses that are for purposes and in amounts
determined reasonable by the director of health;

(C) Room and board, in an amount determined reasonable by
the director of health.

Sec. 3702.981. The director of health, in accordance with
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt rules as necessary
to implement and administer sections 3702.98 to 3702.9810 of the
Revised Code. In preparing rules, the director shall consult
with the chiropractic loan repayment advisory board.

Sec. 3702.982. (A) The director of health shall designate,
as chiropractic health resource shortage areas, areas in this
state that experience special chiropractic health problems and
chiropractor practice patterns that limit access to chiropractic
care. Except as provided in division (B) of this section, the
designations shall be made by rule. The designations may apply
to a geographic area, one or more facilities within a particular
area, or a population group within a particular area. The
director shall consider for designation as a chiropractic health
resource shortage area any area in this state that has been
designated by the United States secretary of health and human
services as a health professional shortage area under section

(B) As used in this division, "free clinic" has the same
meaning as in section 3701.071 of the Revised Code.

The director shall designate each free clinic as a
chiropractic health resource shortage area, regardless of
whether the clinic is located in a geographic area that is
designated as a chiropractic health resource shortage area.

Sec. 3702.983. The director of health, by rule, shall
establish priorities among chiropractic health resource shortage
areas for use in recruiting chiropractors to sites within
particular areas under the chiropractic loan repayment program.
In establishing priorities, the director shall consider the
ratio of chiropractors to the population in the chiropractic
health resource shortage area, the distance to chiropractors
outside the area, health status indicators of the target
population in the area, presence of health care provider sites
in the area with vacancies for chiropractors, availability of an
eligible candidate interested in being recruited to a particular
site within an area, and the distribution of chiropractic health
care provider sites in urban and rural regions. The director
shall give greatest priority to chiropractic health resource
shortage areas having a high ratio of population to
chiropractors.

The director, by rule, shall establish priorities for use in determining eligibility among applicants for participation in the chiropractic loan repayment program. The priorities may include consideration of an applicant's background and career goals, the length of time the applicant is willing to provide chiropractic services in a chiropractic health resource shortage area, and the amount of the educational expenses for which reimbursement is being sought through the program.

Sec. 3702.984. (A) An individual who has not received other student loan repayment assistance and meets either of the following requirements may apply for participation in the chiropractic loan repayment program:

(1) The individual is a chiropractic student enrolled in the final year of chiropractic school or college.

(2) The individual holds a current, valid license to practice chiropractic issued under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code.

(B) An application for participation in the chiropractic loan repayment program shall be submitted to the director of health on a form that the director shall prescribe. The information required to be submitted with an application includes the following:

(1) The applicant's name, permanent address or address at which the applicant is currently residing if different from the permanent address, and telephone number;

(2) The chiropractic school or college the applicant is attending or attended, the dates of attendance, and verification of attendance;
(3) A summary and verification of the educational expenses for which the applicant seeks reimbursement under the program;

(4) If applicable, verification of the applicant's current, valid license to practice chiropractic issued by the state chiropractic board under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code;

(5) Verification of the applicant's United States citizenship or status as a legal alien.

Sec. 3702.985. If funds are available in the chiropractic loan repayment fund created under section 3702.9810 of the Revised Code and the general assembly has appropriated the funds for the program, the director of health shall approve an applicant for participation in the program on finding in accordance with the priorities established under section 3702.983 of the Revised Code that the applicant is eligible for participation and is needed in a chiropractic health resource shortage area.

On approving an application, the director shall notify and enter into discussions with the applicant. The object of the discussions is to facilitate recruitment of the applicant to a site within a chiropractic health resource shortage area at which, according to the priorities established under section 3702.983 of the Revised Code, the applicant is needed.

The director may refer the applicant to the Ohio state chiropractic association, or its successor organization, for assistance with the applicant's recruitment and placement.

If the director and applicant agree on the applicant's placement at a particular site within a chiropractic health resource shortage area, the applicant shall sign and deliver to
the director a letter of intent agreeing to that placement.

**Sec. 3702.986.** (A) An individual who has signed a letter of intent under section 3702.985 of the Revised Code and the director of health may enter into a contract for the applicant's participation in the chiropractic loan repayment program. A lending institution may also be a party to the contract.

(B) The contract shall include all of the following obligations:

(1) The individual agrees to provide chiropractic services in the chiropractic health resource shortage area identified in the letter of intent for at least two years;

(2) When providing chiropractic services in the chiropractic health resource shortage area, the individual agrees to do all of the following:

   (a) Provide chiropractic services for a minimum of twenty hours per week;

   (b) Provide chiropractic services without regard to a patient's ability to pay;

   (c) Meet the requirements for a medicaid provider agreement and enter into the agreement with the department of medicaid to provide chiropractic services to medicaid recipients.

(3) The department of health agrees, as provided in section 3702.98 of the Revised Code, to repay all or part of the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken by the individual for expenses described in section 3702.98 of the Revised Code so long as both of the following are the case:
(a) The individual performs the service obligation agreed to under division (B)(1) of this section.

(b) The repayment amount does not exceed those described in section 3702.988 of the Revised Code.

(4) The individual agrees to pay the department of health the following amount if the individual fails to complete the service obligation agreed to under division (B)(1) of this section:

(a) For a failure to complete service occurring during the first two years of the service obligation, one and one-half times the total repayment amount agreed to by the department under division (B)(3) of this section;

(b) For a failure to complete service occurring after the first two years of the service obligation, one and one-half times any amount that still remains to be repaid by the department under division (B)(3) of this section.

(C) The contract may include any other term as agreed upon by the parties, including a term in which the department assumes the individual’s duty to pay the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken by the individual for expenses described in section 3702.98 of the Revised Code. If the department assumes that duty, the contract shall specify the total amount of the principal and interest to be paid, an amortization schedule, and the amount of each payment to be made under the schedule.

(D) Not later than the thirty-first day of January of each year, the department of health shall send by ordinary mail to each individual participating in the chiropractic loan repayment program a statement listing the amount of the principal and
interest that has been repaid by the department in the previous year. Each participating individual shall notify the department of any change of address and shall do so not later than thirty days after the change of address.

Sec. 3702.987. (A) There is hereby created the chiropractic loan repayment advisory board. The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) One member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

(3) A representative of the department of higher education, appointed by the chancellor;

(4) The director of health or an employee of the department of health designated by the director;

(5) Three representatives of the chiropractic profession, appointed by the governor.

(B) Initial appointments shall be made not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Of the initial appointments made by the governor, two members shall serve a term of one year and one member shall serve a term of two years. The member initially appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives shall serve a term of one year. The member initially appointed by the senate president shall serve a term of two years. Thereafter, terms of office of all appointed members shall be two years. Each member shall hold office from the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed, except that a legislative member ceases to be a member of the board on ceasing to be a member of the
general assembly. No person shall be appointed to the board for more than two consecutive terms.

Vacancies shall be filled in the manner prescribed for the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of that term. A member shall continue in office subsequent to the expiration of the member's term until a successor takes office or until sixty days have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

The governor, speaker, or president may remove a member for whom the governor, speaker, or president was the appointing authority, for misfeasance, malfeasance, or willful neglect of duty.

The board shall designate a member to serve as chairperson of the board.

The board shall meet at least once annually. The chairperson shall call special meetings as needed or upon the request of four members.

Four members of the board constitute a quorum to transact and vote on all business coming before the board.

Members of the board shall serve without compensation.

The department of health shall provide the board with staff assistance as requested by the board.

Sec. 3702.988. The chiropractic loan repayment advisory board shall determine the amounts that will be paid as loan repayments on behalf of participants in the chiropractic loan repayment program. No repayment shall exceed ten thousand
dollars in any year, except that if a repayment results in an increase in the participant's federal, state, or local income tax liability, the department of health, at the participant's request and with the approval of the director of health, may reimburse the participant for the increased tax liability, regardless of the amount of the repayment in that year. Total repayment on behalf of a participant shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars over the time of participation in the program.

Sec. 3702.989. The chiropractic loan repayment advisory board, annually on or before the first day of March, shall submit a report to the governor and general assembly describing the operations of the chiropractic loan repayment program during the previous calendar year. The report shall include information about all of the following:

(A) The number of requests received by the director of health that a particular area be designated as a chiropractic health resource shortage area;

(B) The areas that have been designated as chiropractic health resource shortage areas and the priorities that have been assigned to them;

(C) The number of applicants for participation in the chiropractic loan repayment program;

(D) The number of chiropractors assigned to chiropractic health resource shortage areas and the payments made on behalf of those chiropractors under the chiropractic loan repayment program;

(E) The chiropractic health resource shortage areas that have not been matched with all of the chiropractors they need;

(F) The number of chiropractors failing to complete their
service obligations, the amount of damages owed, and the amount of damages collected.

Sec. 3702.9810. The director of health may accept gifts of money from any source for the implementation and administration of sections 3702.98 to 3702.9810 of the Revised Code.

The director shall pay all gifts accepted under this section into the state treasury, to the credit of the chiropractic health resource shortage area fund, which is hereby created, and all damages collected under division (B)(4) of section 3702.986 of the Revised Code, into the state treasury, to the credit of the chiropractic loan repayment fund, which is hereby created.

The director shall use the chiropractic health resource shortage area and chiropractic loan repayment funds for the implementation and administration of sections 3702.98 to 3702.9810 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4734.04. (A) The state chiropractic board shall hold its annual meeting in this state in September of each year and shall hold other meetings at the times and places that a majority of the board directs. A special meeting shall be held at the call of the board's president or at the request of two or more board members, in which case the meeting shall be called by the board's executive director.

A majority of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Except when action is taken on behalf of the board by the board's president under division (A) of section 4734.05 of the Revised Code, the board may not take any action without the concurrence of three members. The board shall make rules as necessary to govern its internal management.
(B) The board shall keep a record of its meetings and other official actions, including a register of all applicants for licensure to practice chiropractic. The register shall show whether an applicant for licensure was rejected or was granted a license. The board's records and register shall be prima-facie evidence of all matters recorded in them. The board shall adopt a common seal, which may be used to authenticate its official documents.

Sec. 4734.05. (A) The state chiropractic board shall organize by electing from its members a president. The president shall hold office for two years and until the president's successor is elected and takes office. Elections for board president shall be held at every other annual the first meeting of the board held in this state in September each odd-numbered year.

The president, subject to the board's approval, may designate another member of the board to serve as vice-president to fulfill the president's duties in the event that the president is absent or incapacitated. The vice-president may perform any action that the president is authorized to perform.

The president may make decisions on behalf of the board as follows:

(1) A decision regarding board activities may be made by the president if the president considers the decision to be minor and determines that making the decision will facilitate the responsiveness and effectiveness of the board;

(2) A decision involving a situation that requires immediate board attention may be made by the president if the circumstances surrounding the situation make holding a board
meeting impractical. At the earliest time possible, the
president shall report the decision to the members of the board
and the board shall meet to ratify or nullify the decision.

(B) The board shall appoint an executive director who
shall serve as the board's secretary and shall perform all other
duties prescribed by the board or this chapter. While serving as
executive director, the individual appointed shall reside in
this state and may not serve as a member of the board.

The executive director shall be in the unclassified
service of this state. The board shall fix the executive
director's compensation and reimburse the executive director for
necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official
duties. Prior to entering into the official duties of office,
the executive director shall take and subscribe an oath of
office and shall give to the treasurer of state a bond in the
penal sum of fifty thousand dollars with sufficient sureties to
be approved by the governor for the faithful discharge of the
duties.

The executive director is the board's appointing
authority, as defined in section 124.01 of the Revised Code.
With the board's approval, the executive director may appoint
any employees necessary to carry out the board's functions,
including investigative personnel and other employees to perform
professional, clerical, and special work, and may establish
standards for the conduct of and the authority to be granted to
the board's employees.

Sec. 4734.15. (A) The license provided for in this chapter
shall entitle the holder thereof to practice chiropractic in
this state. All of the following apply to the practice of
chiropractic in this state:
(1) A chiropractor is authorized to examine, diagnose, and assume responsibility for the care of patients, any or all of which is included in the practice of chiropractic.

(2)(a) Subject to division (A)(2)(b) of this section, a chiropractor may administer, sell, distribute, recommend, or provide advice regarding any of the following to restore or maintain the health of the chiropractor's patients: vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, antioxidants, enzymes, glandular extracts, botanical substances, herbal therapies, homeopathic remedies, drugs that are available without a prescription, or durable and nondurable medical goods and devices other than home medical equipment, as defined in section 4752.01 of the Revised Code.

(b) A chiropractor may engage in the activities described in division (A)(2)(a) of this section only if the product is prepackaged for use by consumers and labeled in accordance with state and federal law.

(c) A chiropractor shall not delegate any of the activities described in division (A)(2)(a) of this section to an individual who is not licensed or otherwise specifically authorized by the Revised Code to engage in the activity.

(d) The authority of a chiropractor to engage in the activities described in division (A)(2)(a) of this section does not affect the authority of any other health care professional, including a dietitian licensed under Chapter 4759. of the Revised Code, to engage in any of the same activities.

(3) The practice of chiropractic does not permit a chiropractor to do any of the following:

(a) Treat infectious, contagious, or venereal disease;
(b) Perform surgery;

(c) Prescribe drugs, as defined in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code;

(d) Administer any drug not described in division (A)(2) (a) of this section, including a dangerous drug, as defined in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code.

(4) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, the practice of chiropractic does not permit a chiropractor to perform acupuncture.

(5) A chiropractor may use roentgen rays only for diagnostic purposes.

(6) The practice of chiropractic does not include the performance of abortions.

(B) A chiropractor who holds a valid certificate to practice acupuncture issued under section 4734.283 of the Revised Code is authorized to perform acupuncture.

(C) A chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner, as defined in section 4734.151 of the Revised Code, may practice animal chiropractic in accordance with that section.

(D) An individual holding a valid, current license to practice chiropractic is entitled to use the title "doctor," "doctor of chiropractic," "chiropractic physician," or "chiropractor" and is a "physician" for the purposes of Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4734.151. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Animal" means any living animal other than a human
(2) "Animal chiropractic" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculo-skeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy.

Animal chiropractic does not include administering, selling, distributing, recommending, or providing advice regarding any of the following to restore or maintain the health of an animal: vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, antioxidants, enzymes, glandular extracts, botanical substances, herbal therapies, homeopathic remedies, drugs that are available without a prescription, or durable and nondurable medical goods and devices.

(3) "Animal chiropractic practitioner" means a chiropractor licensed under this chapter who holds a current, valid certification from any of the following:

(a) The American veterinary chiropractic association, unless otherwise specified in rule;

(b) The international veterinary chiropractic association, unless otherwise specified in rule;

(c) The college of animal chiropractors, unless otherwise specified in rule;

(d) Any other credentialing organization that the state chiropractic board specifies in rules adopted under this section.

(4) "Licensed veterinarian" means an individual licensed by the state veterinary medical licensing board to practice veterinary medicine.
(B) Except as provided in division (C)(2) of this section, no chiropractor who is not an animal chiropractic practitioner shall do either of the following:

(1) Practice animal chiropractic;

(2) Represent that the person is, or hold the person's self out to the public as, an animal chiropractic practitioner.

(C)(1) All of the following apply regarding a chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner:

(a) The chiropractor shall register with the state chiropractic board in a manner specified by the board;

(b) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic only to types of animals on which the chiropractor has received training;

(c) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic without supervision by a licensed veterinarian;

(d) The chiropractor shall require completion of an application for care form in accordance with division (D) of this section;

(e) The chiropractor shall maintain for at least three years a medical record, including the application for care form, for each animal evaluated or treated and on request shall provide the medical record to the animal's veterinarian in a timely fashion.

(2) A chiropractor who is not an animal chiropractic practitioner may practice animal chiropractic only in accordance with division (F) of section 4741.19 of the Revised Code.

(D) Prior to providing animal chiropractic in accordance
with this section, an animal chiropractic practitioner shall require the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another person responsible for the animal to complete and sign an application for care form that contains at least the following:

(1) A statement that the chiropractor is not a licensed veterinarian and cannot maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;

(2) A statement that animal chiropractic is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;

(3) A question as to whether the animal has been seen by a licensed veterinarian within the past twelve months;

(4) A question as to whether a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic is sought, and if so, a request to specify the diagnosis;

(5) A statement authorizing the chiropractor to provide animal chiropractic to the animal.

(E) The board shall maintain and make available to the public a list of animal chiropractic practitioners who are registered with the board pursuant to this section.

(F) This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code, or prevent any other individual from lawfully acting in a manner authorized under that chapter.

An animal's veterinarian is not liable for any actions or
omissions of an animal chiropractic practitioner who provides animal chiropractic in accordance with this section.

(G)(1) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board may adopt any rules it considers necessary to implement this section. The following rules, if adopted, shall be adopted in consultation with the state veterinary medical licensing board in accordance with division (G)(2) of this section:

(a) Any rule regarding standards of medicine or care for an animal;

(b) Any rule to remove or specify additional credentialing organizations for purposes of division (A)(3)(d) of this section.

(2)(a) Prior to filing a rule identified in division (G)(1)(a) or (b) of this section with the joint committee on agency rule review, the board shall in a timely fashion provide the full text of the proposed rule, amendment, or rule to be rescinded to the state veterinary medical licensing board. The state veterinary medical licensing board shall informally vote on the proposed rule, amendment, or rule to be rescinded at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Regardless of whether the vote is affirmative or not, the state chiropractic board may proceed in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4734.25. A license to practice chiropractic from the state chiropractic board expires biennially in accordance with the schedule established in rules adopted under this section and the standard renewal procedures of Chapter 4745. of the Revised Code. The license may be renewed.
Code, except that the board's executive director shall notify each license holder of the license renewal requirements of this section not later than sixty days prior to the license's expiration date. When an application for license renewal is submitted, the applicant shall provide the information necessary to process the application and pay a renewal fee in an amount the board specifies in rules adopted under this section. The board shall deposit twenty-five dollars of each renewal fee collected into the state treasury to the credit of the chiropractic loan repayment fund created by section 3702.9810 of the Revised Code.

Before a renewal of license is issued by the board, the licensee shall furnish the board with satisfactory evidence that the licensee has completed during the current licensing period not less than the number of hours of continuing education that the board requires in rules adopted under this section. For an activity to be applied toward the continuing education requirement, the activity must meet the board's approval as a continuing education activity, as specified in rules adopted under this section. Any exception from the continuing education requirement must be approved by the board.

Failure of a licensee to comply with this section shall operate as an automatic forfeiture of the right of the licensee to practice chiropractic in this state. A forfeited license may be reinstated by the board upon payment of all fees due and a penalty fee in an amount the board specifies in rules adopted under this section for reinstatement, in addition to satisfying the board of having complied with the continuing education requirements of this section. If an individual's license has been forfeited for two or more years, the board may also require
as a condition of reinstatement that the individual complete training or testing as specified by the board.

The board shall adopt any rules it considers necessary to implement this section, including standards for approval of continuing education in the practice of chiropractic. All rules adopted under this section shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4734.283. If the state chiropractic board determines under section 4734.282 of the Revised Code that an applicant meets the requirements for a certificate to practice acupuncture, the executive director of the board shall issue to the applicant a certificate to practice acupuncture. The certificate expires biennially in accordance with a schedule the board shall establish. The certificate may be renewed in accordance with section 4734.284 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4734.285. A chiropractor who holds a certificate to practice acupuncture issued under this chapter may represent or advertise the chiropractor to be a "chiropractor certified by the state chiropractic board to practice acupuncture." Unless the chiropractor holds a license issued under section 4762.04 of the Revised Code, the chiropractor shall not represent or advertise the chiropractor as holding any of the titles listed in section 4762.08 of the Revised Code.

This section does not prohibit a chiropractor from using any of the titles listed in division (C) of section 4734.15 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4734.31. (A) The state chiropractic board may take any of the actions specified in division (B) of this section
against an individual who has applied for or holds a license to practice chiropractic in this state if any of the reasons specified in division (C) of this section for taking action against an individual are applicable. Except as provided in division (D) of this section, actions taken against an individual shall be taken in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. The board may specify that any action it takes is a permanent action. The board's authority to take action against an individual is not removed or limited by the individual's failure to renew a license.

(B) In its imposition of sanctions against an individual, the board may do any of the following:

(1) Refuse to issue, renew, restore, or reinstate a license to practice chiropractic or a certificate to practice acupuncture;

(2) Reprimand or censure a license holder;

(3) Place limits, restrictions, or probationary conditions on a license holder's practice;

(4) Impose a civil fine of not more than five thousand dollars according to a schedule of fines specified in rules that the board shall adopt in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(5) Suspend a license to practice chiropractic or a certificate to practice acupuncture for a limited or indefinite period;

(6) Revoke a license to practice chiropractic or a certificate to practice acupuncture.

(C) The board may take the actions specified in division
(B) of this section for any of the following reasons:

(1) A plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a felony in any jurisdiction, in which case a certified copy of the court record shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction;

(2) Commission of an act that constitutes a felony in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed;

(3) A plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, as determined by the board, in which case a certified copy of the court record shall be conclusive evidence of the matter;

(4) Commission of an act involving moral turpitude that constitutes a misdemeanor in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed;

(5) A plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a misdemeanor committed in the course of practice, in which case a certified copy of the court record shall be conclusive evidence of the matter;

(6) Commission of an act in the course of practice that constitutes a misdemeanor in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed;

(7) A violation or attempted violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under it governing the practice of chiropractic and the practice of animal chiropractic, or acupuncture by a chiropractor licensed under this chapter;
(8) Failure to cooperate in an investigation conducted by the board, including failure to comply with a subpoena or order issued by the board or failure to answer truthfully a question presented by the board at a deposition or in written interrogatories, except that failure to cooperate with an investigation shall not constitute grounds for discipline under this section if the board or a court of competent jurisdiction has issued an order that either quashes a subpoena or permits the individual to withhold the testimony or evidence in issue;

(9) Engaging in an ongoing professional relationship with a person or entity that violates any provision of this chapter or the rules adopted under it, unless the chiropractor makes a good faith effort to have the person or entity comply with the provisions;

(10) Retaliating against a chiropractor for the chiropractor's reporting to the board or any other agency with jurisdiction any violation of the law or for cooperating with the board of another agency in the investigation of any violation of the law;

(11) Aiding, abetting, assisting, counseling, or conspiring with any person in that person's violation of any provision of this chapter or the rules adopted under it, including the practice of chiropractic without a license, the practice of animal chiropractic in violation of section 4734.151 of the Revised Code, the practice of acupuncture without a certificate, or aiding, abetting, assisting, counseling, or conspiring with any person in that person's unlicensed practice of any other health care profession that has licensing requirements;

(12) With respect to a report or record that is made,
As Passed by the House

filed, or signed in connection with the practice of chiropractic or animal chiropractic, or acupuncture, knowingly making or filing a report or record that is false, intentionally or negligently failing to file a report or record required by federal, state, or local law or willfully impeding or obstructing the required filing, or inducing another person to engage in any such acts;

(13) Making a false, fraudulent, or deceitful statement to the board or any agent of the board during any investigation or other official proceeding conducted by the board under this chapter or in any filing that must be submitted to the board;

(14) Attempting to secure a license to practice chiropractic, authorization to practice animal chiropractic, or a certificate to practice acupuncture, or to corrupt the outcome of an official board proceeding through bribery or any other improper means;

(15) Willfully obstructing or hindering the board or any agent of the board in the discharge of the board's duties;

(16) Habitually using drugs or intoxicants to the extent that the person is rendered unfit for the practice of chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture;

(17) Inability to practice chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of chemical dependency, mental illness, or physical illness, including conditions in which physical deterioration has adversely affected the person's cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills and conditions in which a chiropractor's continued practice may pose a danger to the chiropractor or the public;
(18) Any act constituting gross immorality relative to the person's practice of chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture, including acts involving sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual exploitation;

(19) Exploiting a patient for personal or financial gain;

(20) Failing to maintain proper, accurate, and legible records in the English language documenting each patient's care, including, as appropriate, records of the following: dates of treatment, services rendered, examinations, tests, x-ray reports, referrals, and the diagnosis or clinical impression and clinical treatment plan provided to the patient;

(21) Except as otherwise required by the board or by law, disclosing patient information gained during the chiropractor's professional relationship with a patient without obtaining the patient's authorization for the disclosure;

(22) Commission of willful or gross malpractice, or willful or gross neglect, in the practice of chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture;

(23) Failing to perform or negligently performing an act recognized by the board as a general duty or the exercise of due care in the practice of chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture, regardless of whether injury results to a patient from the failure to perform or negligent performance of the act;

(24) Engaging in any conduct or practice that impairs or may impair the ability to practice chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture safely and skillfully;

(25) Practicing, or claiming to be capable of practicing, beyond the scope of the practice of chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture as established under this chapter.
and the rules adopted under this chapter;

(26) Accepting and performing professional responsibilities as a chiropractor or animal chiropractic practitioner, or chiropractor with a certificate to practice acupuncture when not qualified to perform those responsibilities, if the person knew or had reason to know that the person was not qualified to perform them;

(27) Delegating any of the professional responsibilities of a chiropractor, animal chiropractic practitioner, or chiropractor with a certificate to practice acupuncture to an employee or other individual when the delegating chiropractor knows or had reason to know that the employee or other individual is not qualified by training, experience, or professional licensure to perform the responsibilities;

(28) Delegating any of the professional responsibilities of a chiropractor, animal chiropractic practitioner, or chiropractor with a certificate to practice acupuncture to an employee or other individual in a negligent manner or failing to provide proper supervision of the employee or other individual to whom the responsibilities are delegated;

(29) Failing to refer a patient to another health care practitioner for consultation or treatment when the chiropractor knows or has reason to know that the referral is in the best interest of the patient;

(30) Obtaining or attempting to obtain any fee or other advantage by fraud or misrepresentation;

(31) Making misleading, deceptive, false, or fraudulent representations in the practice of chiropractic, animal chiropractic, or acupuncture;
(32) Being guilty of false, fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading advertising or other solicitations for patients or knowingly having professional connection with any person that advertises or solicits for patients in such a manner;

(33) Violation of a provision of any code of ethics established or adopted by the board under section 4734.16 of the Revised Code;

(34) Failing to meet the examination requirements for receipt of a license specified under section 4734.20 of the Revised Code;

(35) Actions taken for any reason, other than nonpayment of fees, by the chiropractic or acupuncture licensing authority of another state or country;

(36) Failing to maintain clean and sanitary conditions at the clinic, office, or other place in which chiropractic services, animal chiropractic services, or acupuncture services are provided;

(37) Except as provided in division (G) of this section:

(a) Waiving the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers the chiropractor's services, otherwise would be required to pay if the waiver is used as an enticement to a patient or group of patients to receive health care services from that chiropractor;

(b) Advertising that the chiropractor will waive the payment of all or any part of a deductible or copayment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers the chiropractor's services, otherwise would be required to pay.
(38) Failure to supervise an oriental medicine practitioner performing acupuncture or an acupuncturist in accordance with the provisions of section 4762.11 of the Revised Code that are applicable to a supervising chiropractor.

(D) The adjudication requirements of Chapter 119. of the Revised Code apply to the board when taking actions against an individual under this section, except as follows:

(1) An applicant is not entitled to an adjudication for failing to meet the conditions specified under section 4734.20 of the Revised Code for receipt of a license that involve the board's examination on jurisprudence or the examinations of the national board of chiropractic examiners.

(2) A person is not entitled to an adjudication if the person fails to make a timely request for a hearing, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(3) In lieu of an adjudication, the board may accept the surrender of a license to practice chiropractic or certificate to practice acupuncture from a chiropractor.

(4) In lieu of an adjudication, the board may enter into a consent agreement with an individual to resolve an allegation of a violation of this chapter or any rule adopted under it. A consent agreement, when ratified by the board, shall constitute the findings and order of the board with respect to the matter addressed in the agreement. If the board refuses to ratify a consent agreement, the admissions and findings contained in the consent agreement shall be of no force or effect.

(E)(1) This section does not require the board to hire, contract with, or retain the services of an expert witness when the board takes action against a chiropractor concerning
compliance with acceptable and prevailing standards of care in the practice of chiropractic or acupuncture. As part of an action taken concerning compliance with acceptable and prevailing standards of care, the board may rely on the knowledge of its members for purposes of making a determination of compliance, notwithstanding any expert testimony presented by the chiropractor that contradicts the knowledge and opinions of the members of the board.

(2) If the board conducts a review or investigation or takes action against a chiropractor concerning an allegation of harm to an animal from the practice of animal chiropractic, the board shall retain as an expert witness a licensed veterinarian who holds a current, valid certification from a credentialing organization specified in division (A)(3) of section 4734.151 of the Revised Code.

(F) The sealing of conviction records by a court shall have no effect on a prior board order entered under this section or on the board's jurisdiction to take action under this section if, based on a plea of guilty, a judicial finding of guilt, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction, the board issued a notice of opportunity for a hearing prior to the court's order to seal the records. The board shall not be required to seal, destroy, redact, or otherwise modify its records to reflect the court's sealing of conviction records.

(G) Actions shall not be taken pursuant to division (C)(37) of this section against any chiropractor who waives deductibles and copayments as follows:

(1) In compliance with the health benefit plan that expressly allows a practice of that nature. Waiver of the
deductibles or copayments shall be made only with the full knowledge and consent of the plan purchaser, payer, and third-party administrator. Documentation of the consent shall be made available to the board upon request.

(2) For professional services rendered to any other person licensed pursuant to this chapter, to the extent allowed by this chapter and the rules of the board.

(H) As used in this section, "animal chiropractic" and "animal chiropractic practitioner" have the same meanings as in section 4734.151 of the Revised Code.

Section 2. That existing sections 4734.04, 4734.05, 4734.15, 4734.25, 4734.283, 4734.285, and 4734.31 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

Section 3. The State Chiropractic Board may take any action it considers necessary for purposes of converting certificates to practice acupuncture issued under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code from expiring on an annual basis to a biennial basis in accordance with section 4734.283 of the Revised Code, as amended by this act.