

HB 3912 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires an individual who uses the title "doctor" in connection with their health care practice to identify the health care profession in which they earned a doctoral degree on all material.

Detailed Summary:

- Defines "material" as electronic or printed matter, including social media, advertising, billboards, signs, professional notices and professional name badges.
- Specifies size and color requirements for information regarding the health care provider's doctoral degree.

House Vote: Ayes, 55; Nays, 0

Fiscal Impact: Has Minimal Fiscal Impact

Revenue Impact: No Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In the healthcare industry, the term "doctor" can refer to a wide range of professionals that have received the highest educational qualifications in their field. This may include physicians (Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)); dentists Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)); optometrists (Doctor of Optometry (OD)); psychologists (Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)); chiropractors (Doctor of Chiropractic (DC)); or naturopathic physicians (Doctor of Naturopathy (ND)).

Other states have restricted the use of the title "doctor" in health care settings to varying degrees. [California](#) has regulated the use of the title "doctor" since 1937. More recently, [Georgia](#) passed legislation in 2023 to limit which health care practitioners may use the title "doctor."

House Bill 3912 requires a person who uses the title "doctor" in connection with the person's health care practice to identify the health care profession in which the individual earned a doctoral degree on all material.