

**HB 3912 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Campos

**Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 05/20/25

**Action:** Do pass.

**Vote:** 3-2-0-0

**Yeas:** 3 - Campos, Patterson, Reynolds

**Nays:** 2 - Hayden, Linthicum

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Katie Hart, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/29, 5/20

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**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.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Social media marketing.
- Impact of the measure on other professions.

**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.