5289

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 11, 2009

- Introduced by M. of A. MENG, PHEFFER, GREENE, SPANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, COLTON, TITONE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor
- AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to the care and treatment of injured employees by licensed or certified acupuncturists

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The workers' compensation law is amended by adding a new 2 section 13-p to read as follows:

3 S 13-P. CARE AND TREATMENT OF INJURED EMPLOYEES BY LICENSED OR CERTI-4 FIED ACUPUNCTURISTS. 1. WHERE THE TERM "ACUPUNCTURIST" IS USED IN THIS 5 SECTION, SUCH TERM SHALL MEAN A PERSON WHO IS:

6 (A) DULY LICENSED AND REGISTERED AS A LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST PURSUANT 7 TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY OF THE EDUCATION LAW; OR

8 (B) A CERTIFIED ACUPUNCTURIST PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION
 9 EIGHTY-TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN OF THE EDUCATION LAW.

10 INJURED EMPLOYEE, INJURED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAKE 2. (A) AN SUCH AN INJURY COMPENSABLE UNDER THIS ARTICLE, MAY LAWFULLY BE 11 TREATED, 12 UPON THE REFERRAL OF AN AUTHORIZED PHYSICIAN, BY AN ACUPUNCTURIST AUTHORIZED BY THE CHAIR TO RENDER ACUPUNCTURE CARE PURSUANT 13 TO THIS SECTION. SUCH SERVICES SHALL BE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF 14 15 ACUPUNCTURE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHTY-TWO HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THE EDUCATION LAW. 16

(B) MEDICAL BUREAUS, MEDICAL CENTERS JOINTLY OPERATED BY LABOR AND
MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES, HOSPITALS AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS, AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTEEN-C
OF THIS ARTICLE, MAY PROVIDE ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES WHEN REQUIRED, UPON
THE REFERRAL OF AN AUTHORIZED PHYSICIAN, PROVIDED SUCH CARE IS RENDERED
BY AN ACUPUNCTURIST AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (C) AN ACUPUNCTURIST RENDERING SERVICE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL 2 MAINTAIN RECORDS OF THE PATIENT'S CONDITION AND ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT, 3 AND SUCH RECORDS OR REPORTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIR ON SUCH 4 FORMS AND AT SUCH TIMES AS THE CHAIR MAY REQUIRE.

5 (A) AN ACUPUNCTURIST WHO IS DESIROUS OF BEING AUTHORIZED TO RENDER 3. 6 ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL FILE AN APPLICATION FOR 7 AUTHORIZATION UNDER THIS SECTION WITH THE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMIT-8 TEE. THE APPLICANT SHALL AGREE TO REFRAIN FROM SUBSEQUENTLY TREATING FOR 9 REMUNERATION, AS A PRIVATE PATIENT, ANY PERSON SEEKING ACUPUNCTURE 10 SERVICES, IN CONNECTION WITH, OR AS A RESULT OF, ANY INJURY COMPENSABLE UNDER THIS CHAPTER, IF HE OR SHE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE 11 LIST OF 12 ACUPUNCTURISTS AUTHORIZED TO RENDER SERVICES UNDER THIS CHAPTER. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL RUN TO THE BENEFIT OF THE INJURED PERSON SO TREATED, AND 13 14 SHALL BE AVAILABLE AS A DEFENSE IN ANY ACTION BY SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST FOR PAYMENT FOR TREATMENT RENDERED BY SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST AFTER BEING REMOVED 15 16 THE LIST OF ACUPUNCTURISTS AUTHORIZED TO RENDER ACUPUNCTURE FROM SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION. THE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE 17 IF IT DEEMS SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST DULY OUALIFIED SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE CHAIR 18 19 THAT SUCH PERSON BE AUTHORIZED TO RENDER ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THIS 20 SECTION. SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE ONLY ADVISORY TO THE CHAIR AND 21 SHALL NOT BE BINDING OR CONCLUSIVE.

(B) THE CHAIR SHALL PREPARE AND ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE FOR THE STATE OR 22 23 SCHEDULES LIMITED TO DEFINED LOCALITIES OF CHARGES AND FEES FOR ACUPUNC-TURE TREATMENT AND CARE, TO BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND BE 24 25 SUBJECT TO CHANGE PURSUANT TO RULES PROMULGATED BY THE CHAIR. BEFORE 26 PREPARING SUCH SCHEDULE FOR THE STATE OR SCHEDULES FOR LIMITED LOCALI-27 TIES THE CHAIR SHALL REQUEST THE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT TO SUCH CHAIR A REPORT ON THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION DEEMED 28 ΒY 29 SUCH COMMITTEE TO BE FAIR AND ADEQUATE FOR THE TYPES OF ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES TO BE RENDERED UNDER THIS CHAPTER, BUT CONSIDERATION SHALL BE 30 GIVEN TO THE VIEW OF OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. THE AMOUNTS PAYABLE BY 31 32 THE EMPLOYER FOR SUCH TREATMENT AND SERVICES SHALL BE THE FEES AND 33 CHARGES ESTABLISHED BY SUCH SCHEDULE.

(C) IN DETERMINING THE SCHEDULE OR SCHEDULES AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 34 35 (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE CHAIR SHALL MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN TREATMENT RENDERED BY A DULY LICENSED AND REGISTERED ACUPUNCTURIST 36 37 SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY OF THE EDUCATION 38 LAW AND A CERTIFIED ACUPUNCTURIST SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 39 EIGHTY-TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN OF THE EDUCATION LAW, AND THE CHAIR SHALL 40 PREPARE AND ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE OR SCHEDULES REFLECTING FEES AND CHARG-ES APPROPRIATE TO THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE TREATMENT RENDERED BY EACH 41 TYPE OF PRACTITIONER, GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO ALL RELEVANT FACTORS 42 43 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE PRACTITION-44 ER, THE TYPE OF TREATMENT RENDERED, WHETHER THE ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT IS 45 BEING PROVIDED AS THE PRINCIPAL TREATMENT OR AS AN ADJUNCT TREATMENT, THE BILLING PRACTICES ENTAILED, INCLUDING WHETHER THE PRACTITIONER 46 AND 47 SUBMITS ONE COMPREHENSIVE BILL OR BILLS SEPARATELY FOR THE ACUPUNCTURE 48 TREATMENT, OFFICE VISITS AND OTHER ITEMS.

49 4. (A) NO CLAIM FOR ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES SHALL BE VALID AND ENFORCEA-50 BLE AS AGAINST THE EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEES UNLESS WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS FOLLOWING THE FIRST TREATMENT THE ACUPUNCTURIST GIVING SUCH CARE OR 51 TREATMENT FURNISHES TO THE EMPLOYER AND DIRECTLY TO THE CHAIR A PRELIMI-52 NARY NOTICE OF SUCH INJURY AND TREATMENT, AND WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS THERE-53 54 AFTER A MORE COMPLETE REPORT AND SUBSEQUENT THERETO PROGRESS REPORTS AS 55 REQUESTED IN WRITING BY THE CHAIR, BOARD, EMPLOYER OR INSURANCE CARRIER, 56 AT INTERVALS OF NOT LESS THAN THREE WEEKS APART OR AT LESS FREOUENT 1 INTERVALS IF REQUESTED ON FORMS PRESCRIBED BY THE CHAIR. THE BOARD MAY 2 EXCUSE THE FAILURE TO GIVE SUCH NOTICES WITHIN THE DESIGNATED PERIODS 3 WHEN IT FINDS IT TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE TO DO SO.

4 (B) UPON RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE PROVIDED FOR BY PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS 5 SUBDIVISION, THE EMPLOYER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO HAVE THE CLAIMANT EXAM-6 INED BY AN ACUPUNCTURIST AT A PLACE REASONABLY CONVENIENT TO THE CLAIM-7 ANT AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CLAIMANT'S ACUPUNCTURIST, AND REFUSAL ΒY 8 CLAIMANT TO SUBMIT TO SUCH EXAMINATION AT SUCH TIME OR TIMES AS MAY THEREASONABLY BE NECESSARY IN THE OPINION OF THE BOARD SHALL BAR THE CLAIM-9 10 ANT FROM RECOVERING COMPENSATION, FOR ANY PERIOD DURING WHICH HE OR SHE 11 HAS REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO SUCH EXAMINATION.

12 FOR ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES SHALL BE PAYABLE ONLY TO A DULY 5. FEES 13 LICENSED OR CERTIFIED ACUPUNCTURIST PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED 14 SIXTY OF THE EDUCATION LAW, OR TO THE AGENT, EXECUTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR 15 OF THE ESTATE OF SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST. NO ACUPUNCTURIST RENDERING TREAT-16 MENT TO A COMPENSATION CLAIMANT SHALL COLLECT OR RECEIVE A FEE FROM SUCH 17 CLAIMANT WITHIN THIS STATE, BUT SHALL HAVE RECOURSE FOR PAYMENT OF 18 SERVICES RENDERED ONLY TO THE EMPLOYER UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS 19 SECTION.

6. WHENEVER HIS OR HER ATTENDANCE AT A HEARING IS REQUIRED, THE ACUPUNCTURIST OF THE INJURED EMPLOYEE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A FEE FROM THE EMPLOYER IN AN AMOUNT TO BE FIXED BY THE BOARD, IN ADDITION TO ANY FEE PAYABLE UNDER SECTION EIGHT THOUSAND ONE OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.

25 7. (A) UNLESS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER A BILL HAS BEEN RENDERED TO THE 26 EMPLOYER BY THE ACUPUNCTURIST WHO HAS TREATED AN INJURED EMPLOYEE, SUCH 27 EMPLOYER SHALL HAVE NOTIFIED THE CHAIR AND SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST IN WRITING SUCH EMPLOYER DEMANDS AN IMPARTIAL EXAMINATION OF THE FAIRNESS OF 28 THAT THE AMOUNT CLAIMED BY SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST FOR HIS OR HER SERVICES, 29 THE TO SUCH AN IMPARTIAL EXAMINATION SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE WAIVED AND 30 RIGHT THE AMOUNT CLAIMED BY SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE THE FAIR 31 32 VALUE OF THE SERVICES RENDERED. IF THE PARTIES FAIL TO AGREE AS TO THE 33 ACUPUNCTURE CARE RENDERED UNDER THIS CHAPTER TO A CLAIMANT, SUCH VALUE SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE AND THE MAJORITY 34 35 DECISION OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE UPON THE PARTIES AS TΟ VALUE OF THE SERVICES RENDERED. THE BOARD MAY MAKE AN AWARD FOR ANY 36 THE 37 SUCH BILL OR PART THEREOF WHICH REMAINS UNPAID IN THE SAME MANNER AS AN 38 AWARD FOR BILLS RENDERED UNDER SUBDIVISIONS ONE AND THREE OF SECTION 39 THIRTEEN-G OF THIS ARTICLE, AND SUCH AWARD MAY BE COLLECTED IN LIKE 40 MANNER AS AN AWARD OF COMPENSATION. THE CHAIR SHALL ASSESS THE SUM OF FIFTY DOLLARS AGAINST THE EMPLOYER FOR EACH SUCH AWARD MADE 41 ΒY THE BOARD, WHICH SUM SHALL BE PAID INTO THE STATE TREASURY. 42

(B) WHERE AN ACUPUNCTURIST'S BILL HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE DUE AND
OWING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD MAY
IMPOSE A PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT INTEREST PER
MONTH PAYABLE TO THE ACUPUNCTURIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND
REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD.

48 (C) THE PARTIES TO SUCH PROCEEDING SHALL EACH PAY TO THE CHAIR A SUM
49 EQUAL TO FIVE PER CENTUM OF THE AMOUNT PAYABLE UNDER THE DECISION OF
50 SUCH COMMITTEE OR A MINIMUM OF FIVE DOLLARS, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. THE
51 SUMS SO COLLECTED SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE STATE TREASURY TO REIM52 BURSE IT ON ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENSE OF ADMINISTERING THIS SECTION.

8. WITHIN THE LIMITS PRESCRIBED BY THE EDUCATION LAW FOR ACUPUNCTURE
SERVICES, THE REPORT OR TESTIMONY OF AN AUTHORIZED ACUPUNCTURIST
CONCERNING THE CONDITION OF AN INJURED EMPLOYEE AND TREATMENT THEREOF
SHALL BE DEEMED COMPETENT EVIDENCE AND THE PROFESSIONAL OPINION OF THE

1 ACUPUNCTURIST AS TO CAUSAL RELATION AND AS TO REQUIRED TREATMENT SHALL 2 BE DEEMED COMPETENT BUT SHALL NOT BE CONTROLLING. NOTHING IN THIS 3 SECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO DEPRIVE ANY EMPLOYER OR INSURANCE CARRIER OF 4 ANY RIGHT TO A MEDICAL EXAMINATION OR PRESENTATION OF MEDICAL TESTIMONY 5 NOW CONFERRED BY LAW.

6 9. THE CHAIR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES GOVERNING THE PROCEDURE TO BE 7 FOLLOWED BY THOSE RENDERING ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION, 8 WHICH RULES SO FAR AS PRACTICABLE SHALL CONFORM TO THE RULES PRESENTLY 9 IN EFFECT WITH REFERENCE TO MEDICAL CARE FURNISHED TO CLAIMANTS IN WORK-10 ERS' COMPENSATION. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROMULGATION OF SUCH RULES THE 11 CHAIR MAY CONSULT THE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE AND MAY TAKE INTO 12 CONSIDERATION THE VIEW OF OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

13 10. THE CHAIR SHALL APPOINT FOR AND WITH JURISDICTION IN THE ENTIRE 14 STATE OF NEW YORK A SINGLE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF TWO LICENSED ACUPUNCTURISTS, AND ONE DULY LICENSED PHYSICIAN OF 15 THE 16 STATE OF NEW YORK. EACH MEMBER OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL RECEIVE COMPEN-SATION EITHER ON AN ANNUAL BASIS OR ON A PER DIEM BASIS TO BE FIXED BY 17 CHAIR WITHIN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED THEREFOR. ONE OF SUCH LICENSED 18 THE 19 ACUPUNCTURISTS SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE CHAIR AS A CHAIR OF SUCH 20 ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE. NO MEMBER OF SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL RENDER 21 ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION NOR BE AN EMPLOYER OR ACCEPT OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY FEE FROM ANY INSURANCE COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO WRITE 22 WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE IN THIS STATE OR FROM ANY SELF-INSURER, 23 WHETHER SUCH EMPLOYMENT OR FEE RELATES TO A WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM 24 25 OR OTHERWISE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, UPON REQUEST, SHALL ADVISE AND 26 ASSIST SUCH COMMITTEE.

27 11. THE ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE SHALL INVESTIGATE, HEAR AND 28 MAKE FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO ALL CHARGES AS TO PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER MISCONDUCT OF ANY AUTHORIZED ACUPUNCTURISTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION 29 UNDER RULES AND PROCEDURES TO BE PRESCRIBED BY THE CHAIR AND SHALL 30 REPORT EVIDENCE OF SUCH MISCONDUCT, WITH THEIR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDA-31 32 TIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO, TO THE CHAIR. THE FINDINGS, DECISION AND 33 RECOMMENDATION OF SUCH ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE SHALL BE ADVISORY THE CHAIR ONLY, AND SHALL NOT BE BINDING OR CONCLUSIVE UPON HIM OR 34 TO 35 HER. THE CHAIR SHALL REMOVE FROM THE LIST OF ACUPUNCTURISTS AUTHORIZED TO RENDER ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THIS CHAPTER OR TO CONDUCT INDE-36 37 PENDENT EXAMINATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION 38 FOUR OF THIS SECTION THE NAME OF ANY ACUPUNCTURIST WHO HE OR SHE SHALL AFTER REASONABLE INVESTIGATION IS DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE 39 FIND SUCH 40 ACUPUNCTURIST:

41 (A) HAS BEEN GUILTY OF PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER MISCONDUCT OR INCOMPETEN-42 CY IN CONNECTION WITH THE RENDERING OF ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES,

43 (B) HAS EXCEEDED THE LIMITS OF HIS OR HER PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN 44 RENDERING ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THE LAW, OR HAS MADE FALSE STATE-45 MENTS REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS IN THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION,

46 (C) HAS FAILED TO SUBMIT TIMELY, FULL AND TRUTHFUL ACUPUNCTURE EVALU-47 ATION AND TREATMENT REPORTS OF ALL FINDINGS TO THE EMPLOYER AND DIRECTLY 48 TO THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS PROVIDED IN THIS 49 SECTION,

50 (D) HAS RENDERED ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES UNDER THIS CHAPTER FOR A FEE 51 LESS THAN THAT FIXED IN THE FEE SCHEDULE,

52 (E) HAS SOLICITED OR HAS EMPLOYED ANOTHER TO SOLICIT FOR HIMSELF OR 53 HERSELF OR FOR ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT, EXAMINATION OR CARE OF AN 54 INJURED EMPLOYEE WITH ANY CLAIM UNDER THIS CHAPTER,

55 (F) HAS REFUSED TO APPEAR BEFORE OR ANSWER UPON REQUEST OF THE CHAIR, 56 BOARD, ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE COMMITTEE OR ANY DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF 1 THE STATE, ANY LEGAL QUESTION OR PRODUCE ANY RELEVANT BOOK OR PAPER 2 CONCERNING CONDUCT UNDER AN AUTHORIZATION GRANTED UNDER LAW, OR

(G) HAS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY REQUESTED, RECEIVED OR PARTICIPATED IN
THE DIVISION, TRANSFERENCE, ASSIGNMENT, REBATING, SPLITTING OR REFUNDING
OF A FEE FOR, OR HAS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY REQUESTED, RECEIVED OR PROFITED BY MEANS OF A CREDIT OR OTHERWISE VALUABLE CONSIDERATION AS A
COMMISSION, DISCOUNT OR GRATUITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE TREATMENT OF A
WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANT.

9 12. ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES OR ATTEMPTS TO VIOLATE, AND ANY PERSON WHO 10 AIDS ANOTHER TO VIOLATE OR ATTEMPTS TO INDUCE HIM OR HER TO VIOLATE THE 11 PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (G) OF SUBDIVISION ELEVEN OF THIS SECTION SHALL 12 BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

13 13. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS LIMITING IN ANY 14 RESPECT THE POWER OR DUTY OF THE CHAIR TO INVESTIGATE INSTANCES OF 15 MISCONDUCT, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER INVESTIGATION BY THE ACUPUNCTURE 16 PRACTICE COMMITTEE, OR TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE AUTHORIZATION OF ANY 17 ACUPUNCTURIST BELIEVED TO BE GUILTY OF SUCH MISCONDUCT. THE PROVISIONS SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION THIRTEEN-D OF THIS ARTICLE WHICH ARE NOT 18 OF 19 INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPLICABLE AS 20 IF FULLY SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

21 14. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT ACUPUNCTURISTS 22 WHO PRACTICE AS PARTNERS, IN GROUPS OR AS A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 23 FROM POOLING FEES AND MONEYS RECEIVED, EITHER BY THE PARTNERSHIP, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION OR GROUP OR BY THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS 24 THEREOF. 25 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FURNISHED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL 26 MEMBER, OR EMPLOYEE OF SUCH PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR GROUP, NOR SHALL 27 THE PROFESSIONALS CONSTITUTING THE PARTNERSHIPS, CORPORATIONS, OR GROUPS 28 BE PROHIBITED FROM SHARING, DIVIDING OR APPORTIONING THE FEES AND MONEYS RECEIVED BY THEM OR BY THE PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION OR GROUP IN ACCORD-29 ANCE WITH A PARTNERSHIP OR OTHER AGREEMENT. 30

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Provided, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be completed on or before such effective date.