



Delaware House of Representatives House Majority Caucus

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MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS LEGISLATION WOULD BUILD OFF ‘BRADLEY BILLS’

Six bills would prohibit medical professionals convicted of sexual felonies from being licensed

DOVER – Three Democratic lawmakers announced legislation Monday aimed at building off a package of medical reforms passed last year.

House Health and Human Development Committee chair Rep. Michael A. Barbieri and vice-chair Rep. Rebecca D. Walker and Senate Majority Leader Sen. Patricia M. Blevins outlined six measures that build off the Bradley Bills that overwhelmingly passed the General Assembly last year. Those bills grew out of separate reviews by the attorney general and governor’s offices after former Lewes pediatrician Earl Bradley was arrested for allegedly molesting more than 100 children at his pediatric office. The measures were designed to strengthen patient protections and improve oversight of the medical profession, and the bills being filed Tuesday would continue that.

Rep. Walker, D-Middletown and a registered nurse, is sponsoring House Bill 45, which would prohibit anyone convicted of a felony sexual offense from receiving a license to practice registered nursing. It also would permanently revoke the license of any nurse convicted of a felony sexual offense. Licensed medical professionals who fail to report child abuse or neglect would face discipline.

“As a registered nurse, I know how closely nurses work with the sick and the infirmed” Rep. Walker said. “Nurses have always been trusted members of the healthcare team who advocate for their client's well-being. Nurses are on the frontline of patient care every day and will continue to protect those who need them the most.”

Rep. Barbieri, D-Newark, is sponsoring House Bills 52 and 53, which carry the same prohibitions and penalties, but for different professions. HB 52 would permanently revoke the license of any mental health or chemical dependency professional convicted of a felony sexual offense, while HB 53 would permanently revoke the license of clinical social workers similarly

convicted. Both bills carry the same disciplinary provisions for failing to report child abuse or neglect.

“What we learned from the Bradley situation was that we must all be held accountable,” said Rep. Barbieri, a licensed social worker who runs Crossroads of Delaware, a youth counseling center. “Ignoring inappropriate behavior by a professional colleague is a dereliction of duty and makes us just as culpable as the person committing the act.”

The House bills have been assigned to the House Health and Human Development Committee.

Sen. Blevins, D-Elsmere, is sponsoring three bills that carry the same prohibitions and penalties as the House bills, but for different professions. They are: Senate Bill 31 – dentists; Senate Bill 32 – psychologists; Senate Bill 33 – physician assistants.

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